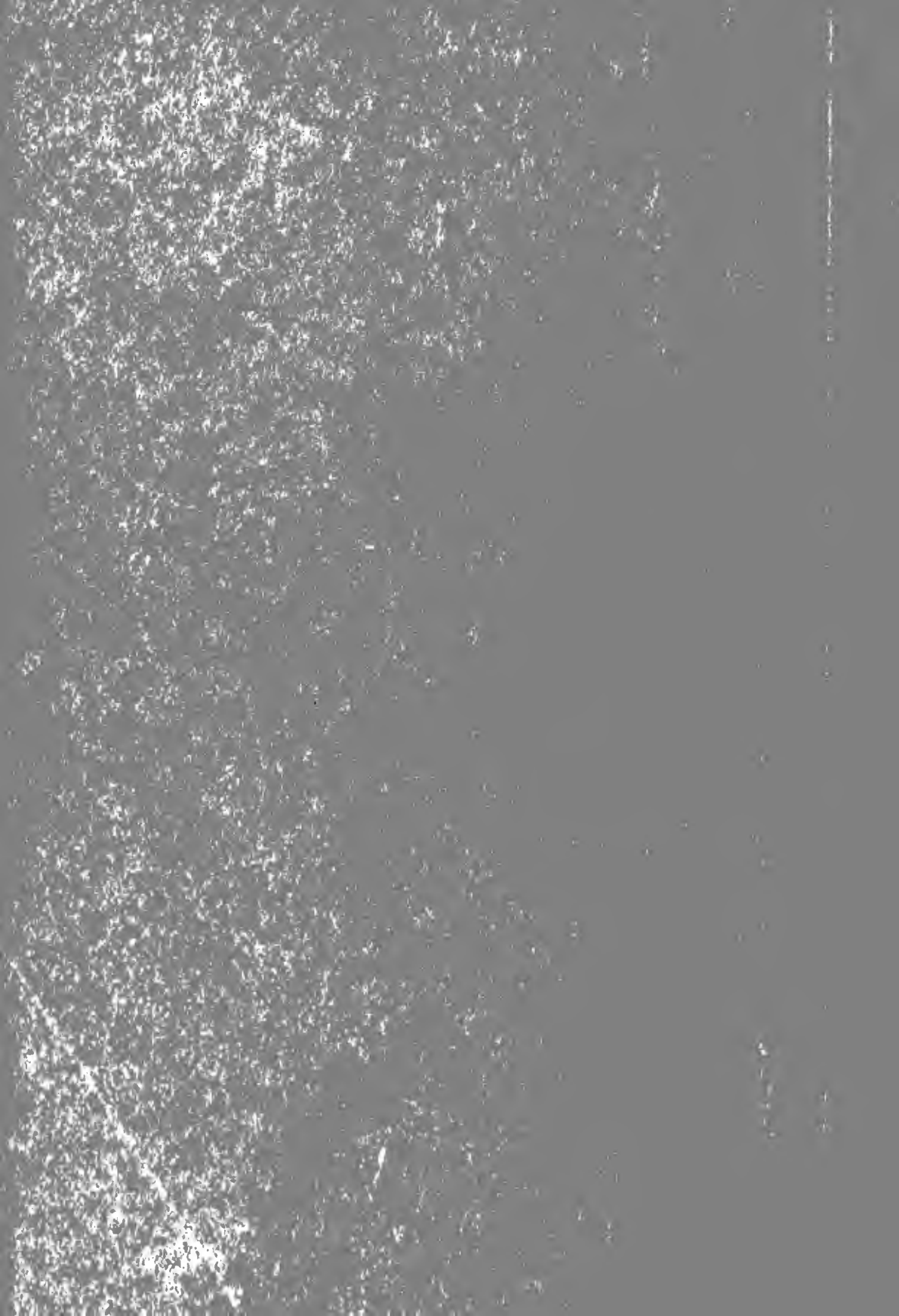


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HISTORY  
OF  
Morrison and Todd Counties  
Minnesota

THEIR PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

---

BY  
CLARA K. FULLER

---

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

---

VOLUME I

---

ILLUSTRATED

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## DEDICATION.

This work is respectfully dedicated to

THE PIONEERS,

long since departed. May the memory of those who laid down their burdens  
by the wayside ever be fragrant as the breath of summer flowers,  
for their toils and sacrifices have made Morrison and  
Todd Counties a garden of sunshine and delights.



# PREFACE

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All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and sacrifice. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Morrison and Todd counties, Minnesota, with what they were sixty years ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, they have come to be centers of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and valuable agricultural and mineral productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of these counties, whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the persons who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Morrison and Todd counties for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted for corrections to the party interested, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.



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# HISTORY OF MORRISON COUNTY

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## CHAPTER I.

### RELATED STATE HISTORY.

Three years elapsed from the time that the territory of Minnesota was proposed in Congress, to the final passage of the organic act. On August 6, 1846, an act was passed by Congress authorizing the citizens of Wisconsin territory to frame a constitution and form a state government. The act fixed the St. Louis river to the rapids, from thence south to the St. Croix, and thence down that river to its junction with the Mississippi, as the western boundary.

On December 23, 1846, the delegate from Wisconsin, Morgan L. Martin, introduced the bill in Congress for the organization of the territory of Minnesota. This bill made its western boundary the Sioux and Red river of the North. On March 3, 1847, permission was granted to Wisconsin to change her boundary, so that the western limit would proceed due south from the rapids of the St. Louis river, and fifteen miles east of the most easterly point of Lake St. Croix, thence to the Mississippi.

Several members of the constitutional convention of Wisconsin were anxious that Rum river should be a part of her western boundary, while citizens of the valley of the St. Croix were desirous that the Chippewa river should be the limit of Wisconsin. The citizens of Wisconsin territory, in the valley of the St. Croix and about Ft. Snelling, wished to be included in the projected new territory, and on March 28, 1848, a memorial, signed by H. H. Sibley, Henry M. Rice, Franklin Steele, William R. Marshall and others, was presented to Congress, remonstrating against the proposition before the convention to make Rum river a part of the boundary line of the contemplated state of Wisconsin.

On May 29, 1848, the act to admit Wisconsin changed the boundary to

the present lines, and as first defined in the enabling act of 1846. After the bill written by Mr. Martin was introduced into the House of Representatives in 1846, it was referred to the committee on territories, of which Mr. Douglas was chairman. On January 2, 1847, he reported in favor of the proposed territory, with the name of Itasca. On February 17, before the bill passed the House, a decision arose in relation to the proposed name. Mr. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, proposed Chippewa as a substitute, alleging that this tribe was the principal one in the proposed territory, which was not correct. J. Thompson, of Mississippi, disliked all Indian names, and hoped the territory would be called Jackson. Mr. Houston, of Delaware, thought that there ought to be a territory named after the "Father of his Country," and proposed the name Washington. All of the names proposed were rejected and the name as proposed in the original bill was inserted. On the last day of the session, March 3, the bill was called up in the Senate and laid on the table.

When Wisconsin became a state the query arose whether the old territorial government did not continue in force west of the St. Croix river. The first meeting on the subject of claiming territorial privileges was held in the building at St. Paul, known as Jackson's store, near the corner of Bench and Jackson streets, on the bluff. This meeting was held in July, and a convention was proposed to consider their position. The first public meeting was held at Stillwater, August 4, and Messrs. Steele and Sibley were the only persons present from the west side of the Mississippi. This meeting issued a call for a general convention to take steps to secure an early territorial organization, to assemble on the 26th of the month at the same place. Sixty-two delegates answered the call. A letter was presented to the convention from Mr. Catlin, who claimed to be acting governor, giving his opinion that the Wisconsin territorial organization was still in force. The meeting also appointed Mr. Sibley to visit Washington and represent their views; but the Hon. John H. Tweedy having resigned his office as delegate to Congress, September 18, 1848, Mr. Catlin, who had made Stillwater a temporary residence issued a proclamation on October 9, ordering a special election at Stillwater on the 30th to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation. At this election, Henry H. Sibley was elected as delegate of the citizens of the remaining portion of Wisconsin territory. His credentials were presented to the House of Representatives, and the committee to whom the matter was referred presented a majority and a minority report; but the resolution introduced by the majority passed and Mr. Sibley took his seat as a delegate from Wisconsin territory, January 15, 1849.

In an interesting communication to the Minnesota Historical Society, Mr. Sibley wrote: "When my credentials as delegate were presented by Hon. James Wilson, of New Hampshire, to the House of Representatives, there was some curiosity manifested among the members, to see what kind of a person had been elected to represent the distant and wild territory claiming a representation in Congress. I was told by a New England member with whom I became subsequently quite intimate, that there was some disappointment when I made my appearance, for it was expected that the delegate from this remote region would make his debut, if not in full Indian costume, at least with some peculiarities of dress and manners characteristic of the rude dress and manners of semi-civilized people, who had sent him to the capitol."

#### THE NAME, MINNESOTA.

The territory of Minnesota was named after the largest tributary of the Mississippi within its limits. The Sioux called the Missouri, "Minne-sho-shay" (muddy water), but the stream after which this region is named, "Minne-sota." Some say "sota" means clear; others turbid; Schoolcraft, bluish green. Nicolett wrote: "The adjective 'sotah' is of difficult translation. The Canadians translated it by a pretty equivalent word, 'brouille,' perhaps more properly rendered into English by 'blear.' But after all these tangled-up explanations of the meaning of the word 'Minnesota,' it may be stated that its true meaning is found in the Sioux expression 'Ishtah-sota' (blear-eyed)." From the fact that the word signifies neither blue nor white, but the peculiar appearance of the sky at certain times, Minnesota has, by some, been defined to mean the tinted water, which is certainly poetic and believed by well-versed scholars to be nearly correct.

#### MINNESOTA TERRITORY, 1849 TO 1854.

##### Extracts from Works in Historical Society.

On March 3, 1849, by act of Congress, Minnesota became a territory, whose boundary on the west extended to the Missouri river. At this time the region was little less than a wilderness. The west bank of the Mississippi from the Iowa line to Lake Itasca, was unceded by the Indians. At Wapashaw was a trading post, in charge of Alexis Bailly, and here also resided the ancient voyageur, of four score years, A. Rocque. At the foot of Lake Pepin was a storehouse, kept by F. S. Richards. On the west shore of the

lake lived an eccentric man named Wells, whose wife was a bois brule, a daughter of the deceased trader, Duncan Graham.

The two unfinished buildings of stone, on the beautiful bank opposite the renowned Maiden's Rock, and the surrounding skin of lodges of his wife's relatives and friends, presented a rude, but picturesque, scene. Above the lake was a cluster of bark wigwams, the Dakota village of what came to be later known as Red Wing city. At that place there was also a Presbyterian mission.

At Red Rock, the site of the former Methodist mission station, there were but few farmers. St. Paul was just emerging from a collection of Indian whisky shops and birch-roofed cabins of half-breed voyageurs. Here and there a frame tenement was erected, and, under the auspices of Hon. H. M. Rice, who had obtained an interest in the town, some warehouses were constructed, and the foundations of the American house, a frame hotel, stood at Third and Exchange streets. In 1849, the population had increased to between two hundred and fifty and three hundred, for rumors had gone abroad that it might be mentioned in the act of creating the territory, as the capital of Minnesota. More than a month after the adjournment of Congress, just at the eve of April 9, amid peals of thunder and torrents of rain, the weekly steampacket, the first to force its way through the icy barrier of Lake Pepin, rounded the rocky point, whistling loud and long, as if the bearer of glad tidings. Before she was safely moored to the landing, the shouts of the excited villagers were heard announcing that there was a territory of Minnesota, and that St. Paul was the seat of government. Every successive steamboat arrival poured out on the landing men big with hope, and anxious to do something to mould the future of the new state.

Nine days after the news of the existence of the territory of Minnesota was received, there arrived James W. Goodhue with press, type and printing apparatus. A graduate of Amherst College, and a lawyer by profession, he wielded a sharp pen, and wrote editorials which, more than anything else, perhaps, induced immigration. Though a man of some faults, one of the counties properly bears his name. On April 28 he issued from his press the first number of the "*Pioneer*."

On May 27, Alexander Ramsey, the governor, and family, arrived at St. Paul, but, owing to the crowded state of the public houses, immediately proceeded in the steamer to the establishment of the fur company, known as Mendota, at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi, and there became the guest of Hon. Henry H. Sibley.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE TERRITORY.

By proclamation on June 1st, Governor Ramsey declared the territory duly opened and organized, with the following officers: Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, governor; C. K. Smith, of Ohio, secretary; A. Goodrich, of Tennessee, chief justice; D. Cooper, of Pennsylvania, and B. B. Meeker, of Kentucky, associate judges; Joshua L. Taylor, marshal; H. L. Moss, attorney of the United States.

On June 11, 1849, a second proclamation was issued, dividing the territory into three judicial districts. The first comprised the county of St. Croix; the county of La Pointe and the region north and west of the Mississippi and north of the Minnesota and of a line running due west from the headwaters of the Minnesota to the Missouri river, constituted the second district, and the country west of the Mississippi river and south of the Minnesota formed the third district. A court was ordered to be held at Stillwater on the second Monday, at St. Anthony Falls, on the third Monday, and at Mendota on the fourth Monday in August.

Until June 26 Governor Ramsey and family were guests at Hon. H. H. Sibley's at Mendota, but on the afternoon of that day they arrived in a birch-bark canoe and became permanent residents of the capital.

On July 1 a land office was located at Stillwater, and A. Van Vorhes became register, after a few weeks.

On July 7, 1849, a proclamation was issued, dividing the territory into seven council districts, and ordering an election to be held on August 1 for one delegate to represent the people in the House of Representatives of the United States, for nine councillors and eighteen representatives, to constitute the Legislative Assembly of Minnesota. The same month, Hon. H. M. Rice dispatched a boat loaded with Indian goods, from the falls of St. Anthony to Crow Wing, it being towed by horses after the manner of a canal boat.

At the election H. H. Sibley was elected, without opposition, as delegate to Congress.

Soon after the territory was organized there were three newspapers established in the territory now known as the state of Minnesota. The first was the *Pioneer*, April 28, 1849, which was started under most trying circumstances. It was at first the intention of the witty and reckless editor to have called his paper "The Epistle of St. Paul." About the same time there was issued in Cincinnati, under the management of Dr. Randall, the

first number of the *Register*. The second number of the paper was published in St. Paul, in July. About June 1 James Hughes, afterwards of Hudson, Wisconsin, arrived with a printing outfit, and established the *Minnesota Chronicle*. After two or three months, two of these three papers went down, and in their place was issued the *Chronicle and Register*, edited by Nathaniel McLean and John P. Owens.

The first court was opened at Stillwater in August, as per proclamation issued by the governor. Judge Goodrich presided. The old government mill at Minneapolis was used for court purposes for the second district, Judge B. B. Meeker presiding as judge. In the third district, the same month, court was held in a large stone warehouse, belonging to the fur company at Mendota, with David Cooper as presiding judge.

On September 3, the first Legislative Assembly convened in the Central house (hotel) at St. Paul. On the first floor of the main building were the secretary's office and representatives' chamber; in the second story was the library and council chamber. A flag was run up the staff in front of the house. A number of Indians sat on a rocky bluff in the vicinity and gazed at what to them was a novel and perhaps saddening scene, for, if the tide of immigration sweeps in from the Pacific as it has from the Atlantic coast, they must soon be crowded out. The first session of the Legislature adjourned November 1. During that session there were created the following counties: Itasca, Wapashaw, Dakotah, Wahnahth, Mahkahto, Pembina, Washington, Ramsey and Benton. The three latter counties comprised the country that up to that time had been ceded by the Indians, on the east side of the Mississippi. Stillwater was declared the county seat of Washington; St. Paul, of Ramsey, and "the seat of justice of the county of Benton was to be within one-quarter of a mile of a point on the east side of the Mississippi, directly opposite the mouth of Sauk river."

Through the exertions of the first secretary of the territory, C. K. Smith, the Historical Society of Minnesota was formed and incorporated at the very opening session of the Territorial Legislature.

#### AN INTERESTING EVENT.

On the evening of New Year's day, at Ft. Snelling, there was an assemblage which is only seen in the outposts of civilization. Outside the wall, in one of the stone edifices belonging to the United States, there resided a gentleman who had dwelt in Minnesota since the year 1819, and who for many

years had been in the employ of the government as Indian interpreter. In his youth he had been a member of the Columbia Fur Company and, conforming to the habits of traders, had purchased a Dakotah wife who was wholly ignorant of the English language. As a family of children gathered around him, he recognized the relation of husband and father and conscientiously discharged his duties as parent. His daughter, at a proper age, was sent to a boarding school of some celebrity, and on the night referred to was married to an intelligent young American farmer. Among the guests present were the officers of the garrison in full dress uniform, with their wives, the United States agent for the Dahkotahs, and family, the bois brules of the neighborhood, and the Indian relatives of the mother. The mother did not make her appearance, but, as the minister proceeded with the ceremony, the Dahkotah relatives, wrapped in their gay blankets, gathered in the hall and looked in through the door. This marriage feast was worthy of the occasion. In consequence of the numbers, the officers and those of European extraction partook first; then the bois brules of Ojibway and Dahkotah descent, and then the native Americans, who did ample justice to the plentiful supply spread before them.

#### NOTEWORTHY FIRST EVENTS.

Governor Ramsey and Hon. H. H. Sibley, at Washington, in the winter (January) of 1850, devised a seal for the territory of Minnesota. The design was a representation of St. Anthony falls in the distance; an immigrant plowing the land on the borders of the Indian country, full of hope and looking forward to the possession of the hunting grounds beyond; an Indian amazed at the sight of the plow, and fleeing toward the setting sun.

The summer of 1850 was the commencement of navigation of the Minnesota river by steamboats. With the exception of a steamer that made pleasure trips as far as Shokpay, in 1841, no large vessels had ever disturbed the waters of this river. In June of 1850 the "Anthony Wayne," which a few weeks before had ascended to the falls of St. Anthony, made a trip. On July 18 it made another trip, going almost to Mahkahto. The "Nominee," also, navigated the Minnesota river that season.

The first proclamation for Thanksgiving day in Minnesota was issued in the autumn of 1850 by the governor, and the 26th day of December was the day appointed and generally observed.

In 1851 the penitentiary was located by the Legislature at Stillwater,

which greatly displeased some of the citizens at St. Paul. By the efforts of J. W. North the University of Minnesota was established at or near the falls of St. Anthony. By the provisions of the state Constitution it is now called the State University.

The first newspaper published above St. Paul was at St. Anthony, and was known as the *St. Anthony Express*, which made its appearance in April, 1851.

The most important event of 1851 in Minnesota was the treaty with the Dakotahs, by which the west side of the Mississippi and the valley of the Minnesota river were opened to the hardy immigrant. This treaty was held for the upper bands at Traverse des Sioux. The commission arrived there the last days of June, but were obliged to wait many days for the congregating of the several tribes of Indians interested. The treaty was finally concluded on July 23, 1851, after the usual speeches, feastings, etc. The pipe having been smoked by Commissioners Lea and Ramsey, it was passed to the chiefs. The paper containing the treaty was then read in English and translated into the Dakotah by Rev. S. R. Riggs, Presbyterian missionary among the Indian people. This finished, the chiefs came up to the secretary's table and touched the pen; the white men present then witnessed the document, and nothing remained but the document's ratification by the United States Senate to open that vast country for the residence of white settlers.

During the first week in August, 1851, a treaty was also concluded beneath an oak bower on Pilot Knob, Mendota, with the M'dewakantonwan and Wahpaykootay bands of the Dakotahs. About sixty of the chiefs and principal men touched the pen, and Little Crow, who had been in the mission school at Lac qui Parle, signed his own name. Before they separated, Colonel Lea and Governor Ramsey gave them a few words of advice on various subjects connected with their future welfare, but especially upon the subject of education and temperance. The treaty was interpreted to them by Rev. G. H. Pond, a gentleman who was conceded to be a most correct speaker of the Dakotah language.

The day after the treaty, these lower bands received thirty thousand dollars, which, by the treaty of 1837, was set apart for education; but, by the misrepresentations of interested half-breeds, the Indians were made to believe that it ought to be given to them to be employed as they pleased. The next week, with their sacks filled with money, they thronged the streets of St. Paul, purchasing whatever pleased their fancy.



## EVENTS OF 1852 AND 1853.

During the summer of 1852, Elijah Terry, a young man who had left St. Paul the previous March and gone to Pembina, to act as a teacher to the mixed-bloods in that vicinity, was murdered under distressing circumstances. With a *bois brule*, he had started to the woods on the morning of his death, to hew timber. While there he was fired upon by a small party of Dakotahs; a ball broke his arm and he was pierced with arrows. His scalp was wrenched from his head, and was afterward seen among Sisseton Dakotahs, near Big Stone lake. At the November term of the United States district court, of Ramsey county, a Dakotah, named Yu-ha-zee, was tried for the murder of a German woman. With others, she was traveling above Shokpay, when they met a party of Indians, of whom the prisoner was one, who gathered about the wagon and were much excited. The prisoner punched the woman with his gun and, being threatened by one of the party, loaded and fired, killing the woman and wounding one of the men. On the day of the trial he was escorted from Ft. Snelling by a company of mounted dragoons in full dress. It was an impressive scene to witness the poor Indian in his blanket, in a buggy, with a civil officer, surrounded with all the pomp and circumstance of war. The jury found him guilty. On being asked if he had anything to say why death sentence should not be passed, he replied, through the interpreter, that the band to which he belonged would remit their annuities if he could be released. To this Judge Hayner replied that he had no authority to release him, and, ordering him to arise, he, after some impressive remarks, pronounced the first sentence of death ever delivered by a judicial officer in Minnesota. The prisoner trembled when the judge spoke and was a piteous spectacle. At that time, by the statutes of Minnesota, one convicted of murder could not be executed for twelve months, and he was confined until the governor of the territory should by warrant order his execution.

On April 9, 1853, a party of Ojibways killed a Dakotah at the village of Shokpay. A war party from Kaposia then proceeded up the valley of the St. Croix and killed an Ojibway. On the 27th of the same month a band of Ojibway warriors, naked, decked, and fiercely gesticulating, made their appearance on the busiest street of the capital, in search of their enemies. Just at that time a small party of women, and one man, who had lost his leg in the battle of Stillwater, arrived in a canoe from Kaposia, at the Jackson street landing. Perceiving the Ojibways, they retreated to the

building then known as the *Pioneer* office, and the Ojibways discharged a volley through the windows, wounded a Dakotah woman, who soon died. For a short time, the new capital city presented a sight similar to that witnessed in earlier days in Hadley and Deerfield, Massachusetts. Messengers were dispatched to Ft. Snelling for the dragoons and a party of citizens, mounted on horseback, were quickly in pursuit of those who, with such boldness, had sought the streets of St. Paul as a place to avenge their wrongs. The dragoons soon followed, with Indian guides scenting the track of the Ojibways, like bloodhounds. The next day they discovered the transgressors, near the falls of St. Croix. The Ojibways manifesting what was supposed to be an insolent spirit, the order was given by the lieutenant in command to fire, and he whose scalp was afterwards daguerrotyped and engraved for *Graham's Magazine*, paid the penalty for his misdeeds.

During the summer a passenger, as he stood on the hurricane deck of any of the steamboats, might have seen, on a scaffold on the bluffs in the rear of Kaposia, a square box covered with red cloth. Above it was suspended a piece of the scalp of the Ojibway whose death had caused the affray in the streets of St. Paul. Within was the body of the woman who had been shot in the *Pioneer* building, while seeking refuge. A scalp suspended over the corpse is supposed to be consolation to the soul and a great protection in the journey to the spirit land.

On the accession of Franklin Pierce to the Presidency of the United States the officers appointed under the Taylor and Fillmore administrations were removed, and the following appointed in their places: Governor, W. A. Gorman, of Indiana; secretary, J. T. Rosser, of Virginia; chief justice, W. H. Welch, of Minnesota; associates, Moses Sherburne, of Maine, and A. G. Chatfield, of Wisconsin. One of the first official acts of the second governor was the making of a treaty with the Winnebago Indians at Watab, Benton county, for an exchange of country.

#### EVENTS JUST PRIOR TO MINNESOTA'S ADMISSION AS A STATE.

The fifth session of the Territorial Legislature convened in the building just completed as the state capitol, January 4, 1854. The president of the council was S. B. Olmstead and the speaker of the House was N. C. D. Taylor.

The most exciting event of this session was the passage of the act incorporating the Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad Company. It was

passed after the hour of midnight on the last day of the session, and contrary to the expectation of the people, it was signed by the governor and became a law.

On December 27, 1854, the first public execution in Minnesota took place, that of Yu-ha-zee, the Indian who had killed the woman previously referred to. The scaffold was erected on the open space between an inn called the Franklin house and the rear of J. W. Selby's enclosure in St. Paul. About two o'clock, the prisoner, dressed in a white shroud, left the old log prison, near the court house, and entered a carriage with the officers of the law. Being assisted up the steps that led to the scaffold, he made a few remarks in his own language, and was then executed. Numerous ladies sent in a petition to the governor, asking the pardon of the Indian, to which that officer, in declining, made an appropriate reply.

The Legislature, in the winter of 1855, adjourned one day, to attend the exercises occasioned by the opening of the first bridge of its kind over the Mississippi river. It was the well-remembered wire suspension bridge at St. Anthony falls. At the date of its opening to the public the land on the west shore of the stream had not yet been patented by the government, which shows the reader how wonderfully the Twin Cities have grown in so short a period of time.

#### THE YEARS 1856-57.

On June 12, 1856, several Ojibways entered the farm house of a Mr. Whallon, of Hennepin county, on the banks of the Minnesota river, a mile below the Bloomington ferry. The wife of the farmer, a friend and three children, besides a little Dakotah girl, who had been brought up in a mission house at Kaposia, and so changed in manners that her origin was scarcely perceptible, were sitting in the room when the Indians came in. Instantly seizing the little Indian maiden, they threw her out of the door, killed and scalped her, and fled before the men in the field nearby could reach the house.

During the session of the Legislature in 1857 the chief issue was the grant of lands for railroad purposes. Also a bill calling for the removal of the state capital from St. Paul to St. Peter caused much stir and no little excitement. After a long and heated contest, the decision was finally reached that St. Paul should be the permanent seat of state government, since which date no effort has been made to change the capital of Minnesota.

On February 23, 1857, an act passed the United States Senate to authorize the people of Minnesota to form a constitution preparatory to their admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original states.

On January 29, 1858, Senator Douglas, of the United States Senate, submitted the bill for the admission of Minnesota territory as a state into the Union. On February 1 a discussion arose on the bill, in which Senators Douglas, Wilson, Gwin, Hale, Mason, Green, Brown and Crittenden participated. Brown, of Mississippi, was opposed to the admission of Minnesota until the question was settled about Kansas. Mr. Crittenden, a Southern man, could not endorse all that was said by the senator from Mississippi, and his words of wisdom and moderation are worthy of historic mention. On April 7, 1858, the bill finally passed the Senate, with only three dissenting votes, and in a short time the House of Representatives concurred; on May 11 the President approved the bill, and Minnesota was fully recognized as one of the United States of America.

## CHAPTER II.

### GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL FEATURES.

In 1888, State Geologist Winchell and Warren Upham made a survey of the topography and geology of the part of Minnesota embracing Morrison county and their research was published in a large volume by the authority of the commonwealth. Professor Upham, now at the head of one of the departments of the State Historical Society at St. Paul, made the survey in both Morrison and Todd counties, and from this exhaustive work the author has largely drawn for the material found within this chapter, which serves for both counties, in a way, with certain variations, owing to the locality treated upon.

Morrison county is about forty miles long from west to east, and its greatest width, on its western boundary, is thirty-nine and a half miles, but east of the Mississippi river its width is only twenty-three miles. Morrison county's area is 1,154.82 square miles, or 739,088.97 acres, of which 8,171.77 acres are covered by water.

### SURFACE FEATURES.

The Mississippi river flows south from Crow Wing county, dividing the domain of Morrison into two sections, of almost equal parts. From its eastern portion comes in several tributaries, such as Rabbit river, Sand creek, Noka Sebe (commonly called Nokasippi) river, Fletcher creek and Platte river. Platte, the largest stream, has its source in Platte lakes, on the northern county line, and flows thirty miles southwesterly into the Mississippi in Benton county. Skunk river is an important tributary of the Platte from the east. From the west, the affluents of the Mississippi are the Crow Wing river, which forms a part of the northern boundary of Morrison county, the Little Elk river, Pike creek, Swan river, Little Two rivers, the main Two Rivers and Skunk brook.

Lake Alexander and Fish Trap lake, in northwestern Morrison

county, are the sources of the Fish Trap brook, which flows over into Todd county. The east borders of these counties from Mille Laes southward belong to the basin of Rum river, which is a tributary of the Mississippi at Anoka.

#### LAKES.

Platte lakes, above mentioned, and others in their vicinity, are about all the lakes within Morrison county. The most noteworthy lakes of the county, perhaps, may be considered Rice lakes, the Southern Platte and Fish lake, lying between Little Falls and Rich Prairie. In western Morrison county only a few small lakelets occur south of Lake Alexander, Fish Trap and Shaminaeu lakes, with others of a small size, make up the interesting group in the northwest part of the county, beautiful for their hilly shores, numerous points, bays and islands, and abounding in fish and waterfowl, while deer and other game live in the surrounding forests.

#### TOPOGRAPHY.

Morrison and Crow Wing counties present about the same topography. A rough, hilly belt of morainic drift, chiefly till, with scanty kame-like deposits of gravel and sand, borders the west side of Morrison county—especially is this seen in Elmdale, Culdrum and the south half of Parker township. North from the south fork of Little Elk river it reaches two or three miles into Morrison county, in the northwest part of Parker township, as well as the next township to the northward. It then turns eastward in a strip two miles south of Fish Trap lake and Lake Alexander, above which these morainic hills rise from one to one hundred and fifty feet in height. Its highest portions rise more than one hundred feet above Lake Alexander, or two hundred to two hundred and fifty feet above the Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers.

Green Prairie, adjoining the Mississippi, and most of the tract west to Fish lake, is flat or only slightly undulating. From the west end of Fish lake are kames or knolls, small plateaus and short ridges of gravel and sand, having cobbles up to one foot in diameter, but no larger boulders, rising thirty to fifty feet above the smoothly undulating gravel and sand on each side, extending three miles west, with a width of about one mile.

Southward from the morainic area and this tract of modified drift, most of the southwestern part of Morrison county is moderately undulating, rising in gentle swells twenty to forty feet above the water courses. In southeastern Elmdale, south of the north branch of Two rivers and Little Two rivers, a belt of level till is found, continuing over into Stearns county.

East of the Mississippi river, a morainic belt from one to three miles wide extends from north to south through Mooreville, Belle Prairie and Little Falls, nearly parallel with the Mississippi river, from which it is separated by a plain modified drift, one to three miles wide and from twenty-five to fifty feet above the river. Where this belt crosses the roadway from Little Falls to Rich Prairie it attains its greatest height, and its material is almost wholly till or boulder-clay. The same modified drift forms Hole-in-the Day's bluff, a notable conical hill, forty feet above the average height of the range and about one hundred and fifty feet above the Mississippi river, situated in the south edge of Belle Prairie, one and one-half miles northeast of Little Falls.

#### ALTITUDES.

Little Falls is 1,115 feet above sea level. Summit cut, seventeen miles from Little Falls, is 1,192 feet.

The descent of the Mississippi river within the limits of Morrison county is about one hundred and fifty-nine feet. Crow Wing river, at Motley, is 1,206 feet above sea level, descending nearly sixty feet thence to its mouth. Lake Alexander is 1,275 feet above sea level.

The highest land in Morrison county consists of morainic hills in the vicinity of Lake Alexander; the tops are about 1,400 feet above sea level and its lowest land is the shores of the Mississippi river in Two Rivers township, 1,029 feet. The mean elevation of the county is about 1,220 feet. By townships, the sea level runs approximately thus: Township No. 42, range 28, 1,275 feet; township 41, range 28, 1,300; township 40, range 28, 1,275; Morrill, 1,225; township 42, range 29, 1,260; township 41, range 29, 1,275; Ripley, 1,260; Pierz, 1,220; Buckman, 1,180; Belle Prairie, 1,230; Pike Creek, 1,170; Little Falls, 1,160; Bellevue, 1,100; Motley, 1,275; Swan River, 1,140; Two Rivers, 1,100; Parker, 1,260; Culdrum, 1,240, and Elmdale, 1,200.

## SOIL AND TIMBER.

The boulder-clay or till is good farming land, except limited portions of the morainic belts, which are too hilly and stony for cultivation, and such lands are valuable for pasture purposes. The soils of gravel and sand belonging to the modified drift have less fertility and are more quickly exhausted by cropping; but from Motley to Crow Wing, and thence south through Morrison county, they are fairly productive, and have to a large extent been brought under cultivation successfully, because they were prairie, or only covered by brush and small trees, so that the land was easily prepared for the plow.

Heavy timber covers the areas of the till and some portions of the modified drift. On the latter, Jack pines, red or Norway pines, black and burr oaks, aspen and other species grow. Much jack pine also grows on a belt next east of the morainic belt in Crow Wing, Mooreville, Belle Prairie and Little Falls, and much red pine is found on the tract of modified drift in Green Prairie north of the Little Elk river.

The general southwestern limit of the pines, spruce and fir, crosses Buckman township, Bellevue and the south part of Swan River, thence continuing northwestward through Culdrum into Todd county. Much white pine has been cut, and much remained in Parker township and northward in Green Prairie and Motley, about the head of West branch of Rum river, on Hillman brook, and the upper portions of Skunk, Platte and Nokasippi rivers.

Among the many species of tree and shrub growth of this county there may be named, as common, the white pine, white, burr and black oaks, ironwood, white, red and rock elms, hackberry, basswood, sugar and soft maple, box elder, black and green ash, canoe and yellow birch, poplars, butternut, bitter hickory, wild plum, red and black cherry and Juneberry. Of the shrubs are the hazelnut, prickly ash, choke cherry, red and black raspberry, high blackberry, wild rose, thorn, prickly and smooth gooseberry, black currant, wolfberry, staghorn and smooth sumach, frost grape, Virginia creepers, climbing bittersweet, New Jersey tea or red-root, honeysuckle and arrowwood, the high-bush cranberry, alder and willows. Tamarack is plentiful in the swamps. Red cedar rarely occurs on bluffy shores of rivers and lakes.





FISH TRAP LAKE, MORRISON COUNTY



## PRAIRIES.

Prairies of grass, with scarcely any shrubbery or plants, occupied originally a considerable part of the modified drift plain bordering the east side of the Mississippi river, southward through Belle Prairie and part of Little Falls; also a tract of two or three square miles in the southwest part of Bellevue, and another, three miles long from north to south and a mile wide, in Crow Wing. Green Prairie, three miles long from north to south and a mile wide; North Prairie, in Two Rivers, and Rich Prairie, which is about four miles wide and reaches eleven or twelve miles from the middle of Pierz, south through the west part of Buckman and the east edge of Bellevue, continuing on into Benton county. These are mostly "brush prairie," having much hazel and oak brush, prairie willow, red root and sand cherry.

## GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

In Morrison county many outcrops of bed-rocks occur. East of the Mississippi river the prevailing types are granite, cyanite and gneiss. Along the river and farther west they are slate, staurolite-bearing mica, schist and diorite.

Of the geological formation at and near Granite City, in part of section 21, township 41, range 29, on the northwest side of Skunk river, it may be stated that that is where the steam saw-mill and a considerable town existed during several years next preceding the Indian outbreak of 1862. Its buildings remained empty from that date on and were gradually removed or decayed into ruins. The nearest farming immigrants after that time settled a half-mile down the river. The rock outcropping at Granite City, from which the name was derived, is coarse gray gneiss, containing much black mica. Its strike is from northeast to southwest, and its dip is vertical, or within a few degrees of it. This rock forms numerous bare hills and ridges, ten to thirty feet above Skunk river, for a fourth of a mile along its northwestern side, and in less amount on its southeast side. It is also seen on the southeast side in an exposure of a few acres, rising ten to twenty feet above the river at a fourth of a mile farther to the east. Here the Skunk river is from ten to twenty feet wide, and flows in a meandering course among the ledges.

About six miles above Granite City, on the northwest side of Skunk

river, a little beyond where this stream is crossed by the road used for carrying the supplies distributed yearly to the Mille Lacs Indians, rock exposures are reported to cover as large an area as at Granite City, but to have less height above the adjoining surface of the drift. This is near the northwest corner of township 41, range 28.

The rocks found in Morrison county, along the Mississippi river and west of it, belong to a group lithologically different from the foregoing, and doubtless newer in age. The first exposure is on the Little Elk river near its mouth, two and half miles north of Little Falls. It continues northwest above the dam, and is also visible in low exposures at the bridge, twenty rods above the dam. This slate contains occasional veins of quartz from a quarter of an inch to three inches in width, and from one to twenty feet in length.

At the rapids at Little Falls on the Mississippi, beside the town of this name, this dark slate, varying from mica schist to argillyte, has extensive outcrops in each shore and forms the north end of Mill island, on the west side of which it makes a perpendicular cliff twenty feet high. The principal rapid extends a fifth of a mile from about six hundred feet above the island to five hundred feet below its north end, the descent being five feet. The stone was slightly quarried here prior to 1888, nearly opposite the north end of Mill island, for use in foundations, but no massive blocks nor any of regular form are obtainable. In this slate, veins of white quartz occur, varying from an eighth of an inch to one inch in thickness and extending out as far as seventy feet in places. The thickest of these veins is situated in the channel of the river, where it is about one foot wide. In the eastern part of Little Falls this slate is encountered at a depth of ten feet in digging wells, but it is not found thus in the west part, between this and its exposure at the river.

This same geological formation is found outcropping at other points, as for example at Cash's rapids, below Pike's rapids, at the middle of Nuncey's rapids, and at other points within Morrison county.

Of the cretaceous beds of the county it should be said that at the mouth of main Two rivers these beds outcrop in the west bank of the Mississippi along a distance of a quarter of a mile and in the banks of Two rivers it is overlaid by from ten to thirty feet of drift. A perfect shark's tooth was found about thirty years ago by Eddie Young on a sandbar of Two rivers, a fourth of a mile above its mouth. Other shark's teeth have been discovered since that date, all indicating that marine cretaceous beds probably underly the drift somewhere within the basin of the stream, though

possibly they are eroded by the ice, their fossils being now contained in the drift.

The modified drift of the Mississippi river valley discloses that at Hay creek, where the river-road crosses, near the south line of Swan River township, out of every one hundred pebbles found, about two are limestone; a hundredth part are red sandstone; the remainder, nearly ninety-nine per cent., are dark greenish or brown trap, redish and gray granite, cyanite and other crystalline rocks.

The wells in Morrison county have a depth ranging from fifteen to fifty-five feet; usually about thirty feet from the surface good drinking water is obtained by digging for it.

#### MATERIAL RESOURCES.

In 1881, when a geological survey was made of Morrison county by Warren Upham, now of the Historical Society of Minnesota, he found water-powers in use and dams for lumbering purposes as follow:

On Skunk river, at Kasper's grist-mill, two miles northeast of Pierz, with an eight-foot head, as well as another in way of a saw-mill in section 30, with a seven-foot head. On Hillman brook and its branches, dams to supply water for log driving and other purposes, amounting in all to a half dozen or more. On Platte river two dams were in existence for lumbering and had a head of six feet. On Skunk brook, the Northern Pacific flouring-mills, in section 27, had a sixteen-foot head and run a three run of stones. On Two rivers there was a flouring-mill, with a twenty-foot head and numerous saw-mills. On Swan river, in the east edge of section 12, a third of a mile from its mouth, the Swan River flouring-mills, with a head of eleven feet. On the Little Elk river, Hill's grist-mill and saw-mill had a twelve-foot head, besides a large shingle-mill in the west part of section 8. Other good water powers, said Mr. Upham, waited to be employed on these streams, and on the Nokasippi, and especially on the Mississippi river at Little Falls and Pike rapids.

*Building Stone.*—The outcrops of rock in Morrison county have been but slightly quarried at several localities. The most promising seems to be the granite seen a short distance south of Fish lake, three miles southwest of Rich Prairie. Drift builders are considerably used for rough masonry.

*Bricks.* When Fort Ripley was built the bricks used were made on the west side of the Mississippi, near the site of the fort. They were red

and of excellent quality. In 1879 brick-making was begun by William Schwartz on the east side of the Mississippi a mile northeast from Brainerd.

#### ARCHAEOLOGY.

Without entering deep into the mysteries of this interesting subject, it should be stated, in brief, that this county affords a wonderland for scientific investigation along these lines. Peculiar earthworks are found less than a mile north of Little Falls, near the present town plat. Professor Winchell described these in his work in the eighties in the following language:

"Low circular ridges, from eight to twelve feet across, rising but two to three feet above the common level, are scattered over a small distance. They may have been designed for human habitation, having been formed at first by slightly excavating the surface of the ground, and then building rude, arched coverings, supported by wooden branches and enclosed by earth. If all these decayed and fell in, the resulting forms would be exactly what are now seen. Beyond the limits of the village, farther north, is an interesting ridge, nearly straight, running obliquely back from the river and one hundred and eight paces in length. It has two low spots, or openings, through it, which separate it into three main parts. It does not extend to the immediate river bank, but is separated from it by several rods. The design of this ridge is not evident, but it must have sustained some relation to other works in the neighborhood. It may not, however, have the same age as the smaller circling ridges."

#### NATHAN RICHARDSON'S ACCOUNT OF MOUNDS.

That well-posted gentleman, Nathan Richardson, one of the first county officials and a man of learning and much local research, wrote on the subject of mounds over a quarter of a century ago as follows:

"On section 35, township 41, range 31, in the south edge of Belle Prairie, six miles east of Little Falls, nearly forty mounds are found around the shore of a lake, which by the Indians was called 'the lake between the hills'. A mile east from this lake is a group of about a dozen mounds, two of which were dug into a few years ago, a skeleton being found in each. Going from these nearly south about two miles, on the point of dry land running down to the thoroughfare between the two Rice

lakes, there are three mounds near together, much larger than these I have mentioned. Then, by crossing the stream connecting the two lakes and following down the strip of dry land between them about a half-mile, one comes to the largest mound known in Morrison county. It is about twelve feet in height. Passing on about one mile, on the southwest bank of East Rice lake, eight or ten more of the smaller size are found. Occasionally one or two small ones are met with in other parts of the county."

#### HOLE-IN-THE-DAY'S BLUFF.

Hole-in-the-Day's Bluff is one and one-half miles northeast from Little Falls. It received its name from that of a famous Chippewa Indian slayer of Sioux (Dakotahs) in the terrible conflicts between these two tribes, and who was buried, in accordance with his wishes, at the top of the hill. The prospect from it is beautiful, overlooking a wide extent of country in every direction, with the smooth Belle prairie and the Mississippi river at its foot on the west.

## CHAPTER III.

### INDIAN TRIBES AND EARLY MISSIONARIES.

Before entering into the modern history of Morrison and Todd counties it will be well to consider some of the conditions found in this domain, while Minnesota was yet a territory, and trace briefly some of historic events which led up to its final development by the white race. To begin with, it should be stated that three separate Indian tribes were present in northern Minnesota at the time the state was admitted into the Union in 1858. These tribes were the Sioux, or Dakotahs; the Chippewas, or Ojibways, and the Winnebagoes, or Ho-tchungraws.

### THE SIOUX INDIANS.

The Sioux tribe was an entirely different group from the Algonquin and Iroquois, who were found by the early settlers of the Atlantic states on the banks of the Connecticut, Mohawk and Susquehanna rivers. When the Dakotahs were first noticed by the European adventurers large numbers were occupying the Mille Lacs region of the country, and appropriately called by the voyageur "People of the Lac," "Gens du Lac." Tradition states that here, in ancient times, was the center of this tribe. Though we have traces of their warring and hunting on the shores of Lake Superior, there is no satisfactory evidence of their residence east of the Mille Lacs region, as they have no name for Lake Superior. The word Dakotah, by which they love best to be designated, signifies allied or joined together in friendly compact, and is equivalent to "E pluribus unum," the motto of the United States.

More than two hundred years ago, it was written by La Pointe Mission authors in Wisconsin thus: "For sixty leagues from the extremity of the Upper lake, toward sunset, and, as it were, in the center of the western nations, they have all united their force by a general league."

Historians all know that from the earliest documents the Dakotahs



have been called the Sioux, Scioux or Soos. The name originated with the early voyageurs. For centuries the Ojibways of Lake Superior waged war against the Dakotahs and, whenever they spoke of them, called them Nado-waysioux, signifying enemies. To avoid exciting the attention of Indians, while conversing in their presence, the French traders called them by names which they could not understand. The Dakotahs were nicknamed Sioux, a word composed of the last two syllables of the Ojibway word for foes.

Under the influence of the early French traders the eastern Sioux began to wander from the Mills Lacs region. A trading post at O-ton-wekpadan, or Rice creek, above the falls of St. Anthony, induced some to erect there their summer dwellings and plant corn, which took the place of wild rice. Those who dwelt here were called Wa-kpa-a-ton-we-dan, or, those who dwell on the creek. Another division was styled the Ma-tan-ton-wan. About 1790, or a little later, the eastern Sioux, pressed by the Chippewas, and influenced by traders, moved seven miles above Ft. Snelling on the Minnesota river.

In 1849, only sixty-six years ago, there were seven villages of Med-day-kawn-twawn Sioux—one below Lake Pepin, where now stands the city of Winona, known as Wapashaw, and of whom Bounding Wind was chief; one at the head of Lake Pepin, where, under the lofty bluff, was the Red Wing village, of which Shooter was the big chief; one, styled Kaposia, opposite Pig's Eye Marsh, of which the chief was Little Crow, who became notorious as the wicked leader of the 1862 massacre; Black Dog Village, on the Minnesota river a few miles above Ft. Snelling, inhabited by Ma-ga-yu-tay-shnee, of whom Gray Iron was chief; at Oak Grove, on the north side of the river, eight miles above the fort, was Hay-ya-ta-o-ton-wan (Inland Village, because they formerly lived at Lake Calhoun); the sixth branch of this tribe of Dakotahs was the "Bad People," or O-ya-tay-shee-ka, and the seventh band was styled Tin-ta-ton-wan (Prairie Village); Shok-pay, or Six, was the chief, and it is now the site of the town of Shakopee.

West of this division of the Sioux were the Leaf Shooters (War-pay-ku-ray), who occupied the region south of the Minnesota river, near the headwaters of the Blue Earth and Cannon rivers; north and west of this band were the War-pay-twawns (people of the leaf), who numbered about fifteen hundred and lived in a village known as Lac qui Parle; still to the west of these were the Se-see-twawns (Sissetoans), or Swamp Dwellers. This band claimed the land west of the Blue Earth to James river. They it was who held title and sacredly guarded the famous sacred red pipestone

quarry. Their principal village was at Traverse, and they numbered fully four thousand.

Finally, the Ho-tchun-graws, or Winnebagoes, who also belong to the Dakota family of aborigines, perhaps the dirtiest and most unattractive band of all Indian tribes, were, by a treaty in 1837, removed to Iowa, and by another treaty, in October, 1846, they came to Minnesota, in the spring of 1848, to the country between the Long Prairie and Crow Wing rivers. Their agency was located on Long Prairie river, forty miles from the Mississippi river, and in 1849 the tribe numbered twenty-five hundred souls. In February, 1855, another treaty was effected with them, and that spring they removed to lands on the Blue Earth river. Owing to the panic caused by the outbreak of the Sioux in 1862, Congress, by a special act, in 1863, without consulting them, removed them from their fields in Minnesota to the Missouri river, and, in the words of a missionary, "they were, like the Sioux, dumped in the desert, one hundred miles above Ft. Randall."

#### OJIBWAY OR CHIPPEWA NATION.

This tribe of Indians, when the French first came to Lake Superior, had their chief settlement at Sault St. Marie. They were called by the French, Saulteurs, and by the Sioux, Hah-ha-tonwan, "Dwellers at the Falls of Leaping Waters." When Duluth erected his trading post at the western extremity of Lake Superior, they had not obtained a foothold in Minnesota and were constantly at war with their hereditary enemies, the Nadouaysioux. But by the middle of the eighteenth century they had pushed in and occupied Sandy, Leech, Mille Lacs and other points between Lake Superior and the Mississippi, which had been the dwelling places of the Sioux. In 1820 the main villages of the Ojibways in Minnesota were at Fond du Lac, Leech lake and Sandy lake. In 1837 they ceded most of their lands. Since then other treaties have been made, until by 1880 they were confined to a few reservations, in northern Minnesota and vicinity.

#### EARLY CHURCH MISSIONS.

As Morrison county once had a large Indian school and a religious mission within its borders, it is well to give a brief account of the various missions established by Catholics, Methodist Episcopal and other denominations, in this portion of the great Northwest.

After the American Fur Company was formed, the island of Mackinaw became the residence of the principal agent for the Northwest, Robert Stuart, a Scotchman and devoted Presbyterian. In June, 1820, the Rev. Dr. Morse, father of the world-famous inventor of the telegraph, visited and preached at Mackinaw, and later, at his suggestion the Presbyterian Missionary Society sent a graduate of Union College, Rev. W. M. Ferry, father of the man who was later United States senator from Michigan, to explore the field. In 1823 he established a large boarding school, composed of children of various tribes, and here some were educated and became wives of men of intelligence and influence at St. Paul. Later this plan of a central school was changed and there were sent teachers to the various tribes. Rev. Alvin Coe and J. D. Stevens arrived at Ft. Snelling in September, 1829. The Historical Society has in its possession the journal of Major Lawrence Taliaferro, in which this entry appears: "The Rev. Mr. Coe and Stevens reported to be on their way to this post; members of the Presbyterian church looking for suitable places to make missionary establishments for the Sioux and Chippewas, found schools, and instruct in the arts of agriculture."

During this visit the government agent offered for a Presbyterian mission the mill which stood on the present site of Minneapolis, that had been erected by the government, as well as the farm at Lake Calhoun, which was established to teach the Sioux agriculture.

In 1830 Frederick Ayer, one of the teachers at Mackinaw, made an exploration as far as La Pointe, and returned, and in about one year a mission was established by the church at La Pointe. In 1833 Rev. Ayer opened a school at Yellow Lake, Wisconsin, and F. F. Ely became a teacher at Aitkins trading post at Sandy lake. In 1834-35 a mission was formed as well as a Presbyterian church organized at Ft. Snelling.

In the autumn of 1841 the Roman Catholic church attempted to establish a mission at Mendota, which, however, did not remain long in the work.

The Chippewa mission was at Pokegama, one of the "mille lacs", or thousand beautiful lakes for which Minnesota is remarkable. It is twenty miles above the junction of Snake river and St. Croix river and was established in 1836, among the Ojibways and Pokegama, to promote their spiritual and temporal welfare. The mission house was erected on the east side of the lake, but the Indian village was on the island, not far from shore. A year later, 1837, a journal says: "The young women and girls now make, mend, wash and iron after our manner. The men have learned

to build log houses, drive team, plow, hoe and handle an American axe with skill in cutting large trees, the size of which, two years ago, would have afforded them sufficient reason why they should not meddle with them."

In 1837 Rev. A. Brunson commenced a Methodist mission at Kaposia, four miles below and opposite St. Paul. It was subsequently removed to the west side at Red Rock. The Rev. Spates and a few others also labored among the Ojibways for a brief period.

At the stations the Dakota language was diligently studied. Rev. S. W. Pond had prepared a dictionary of three thousand words, and also a small grammar. The Rev. S. R. Riggs, who had joined the mission in 1837, in a letter dated February 24, 1841, writes: "Last summer, after returning from Ft. Snelling, I spent five weeks in copying again the Sioux vocabulary which we had collected and arranged at this station. It contained then about five thousand five hundred words, not including the various forms of the verbs. Since that time the words collected by myself and Doctor Williamson have, I presume, increased the number to fully six thousand. Mrs. Riggs and others wrote a vocabulary of about three thousand words."

Steadily the number of Indian missionaries increased, and in 1851, before the lands of the Dakotahs west of the Mississippi river were ceded to the whites, they were disposed of as follows by the Dakotah presbytery: Lac-qui-parle, Rev. S. R. Riggs, Rev. M. N. Adams and assistants; Traverses des Sioux, Rev. Robert Hopkins, missionary, and assistants; Shack-pay, Rev. Samuel W. Pond, missionary, and assistants; Oak Grove, Rev. Gideon H. Pond and wife; Kaposia, Rev. Thomas Williamson, M. D., missionary and physician, and assistants; Red Wing, Rev. James F. Alton, Rev. Joseph W. Hancock, missionaries, with their devoted wives and assistants.

An account of the Indian school and church established in Morrison county by Rev. Frederick Ayer, a Congregational minister of Massachusetts, will be found in the county chapters of this work. His son is still an honored resident and business factor at Little Falls. Thus the heralds of the Cross endured the privations and sacrifices of a wilderness, away back in the thirties, forties and fifties, that the pioneer and red man might be taught the way of truth and goodness.

#### FINAL DISPOSITION OF INDIANS.

The Winnebagoes were for some years located within the bounds of Todd and Morrison counties. In 1848 General Fletcher removed them

from Ft. Atkinson, Iowa, to Long Prairie, west side of the Mississippi river; but, although the agency was located at Long Prairie, the Indians occupied the Swan river valley, within the present limits of Morrison county for a period of seven years, where they engaged partly in hunting and partly in farming, having about two hundred acres under cultivation, but they became dissatisfied and were removed to the Blue Earth country.

When the Winnebago Indians were brought to Long Prairie and Swan river valley, in 1848, the government built Ft. Ripley on the west bank of the Mississippi river, about twenty miles above the mouth of Swan river. During the outbreak of Indians in 1862 it became necessary to station a large force of soldiers here to overawe the redskins—to hold back the Chipewas, who were then suspected of an intention to make common cause with the hostile Sioux in warfare against the whites. The Seventh United States Regulars were there stationed for quite a period until the Indian war had subsided.

## CHAPTER IV.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT OF MORRISON COUNTY.

Morrison is one of the central counties of Minnesota; it is about forty by forty-two miles, respectively, east and west and north and south, and has an area of one thousand one hundred and thirty-nine square miles, equal to almost seven hundred and twenty-nine thousand acres. That portion lying east of the Mississippi river was originally included in Benton county, while that to the west of that river was a part of Todd county. Cass and Crow Wing counties are at the north of Morrison; Crow Wing and Mille Lacs on the east; Benton and Stearns on the south and Todd county at the west.

The surface is rolling and originally well timbered, but interspersed with lakes and beautiful prairies. Ten townships in the eastern portion were, as late as 1882, noted for their heavy pine and maple timber. In the northwestern part of the county five other congressional townships had the same kind of native forest lands. At that date, from the pine region north on the west side of the Mississippi river, south to the county line, an unbroken forest existed. The soil in this particular portion is exceptionally fine. For ten miles south of the pine region extensive natural meadows existed. On the east side of the Mississippi river the country not included in the pine belt has but little timber of any sort, but is made up largely of brush land, marsh and meadowland, with some good prairie land. The soil is generally good for this section of Minnesota.

The population of Morrison county, according to the census of 1910, was twenty-four thousand and fifty-three; Little Falls, its seat of justice, having at that date six thousand and seventy-eight.

Among the points of historic interest in this county is that where Pike's fort was situated, on the west side of the Mississippi below the rapids south of Little Falls. At this place the bank rises fifteen feet, on the summit of which the stockade was built. Measurements taken in 1879 showed it to have been thirty-eight feet square. In Pike's own official

account it is stated that his fleet consisted of two long boats, one of which was put upon either side of the passage-way from the stockade to the river. The distance from the water's edge being not over sixty feet in low water, there is no inconsistency in the statement.

This was Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike, the first United States Army officer sent to the upper Mississippi. He was later made famous by his explorations in the Rocky Mountain country, where a celebrated mountain peak was named for him—Pike's Peak. After building the stockade near Swan river, he passed a month in hunting and exploring the vicinity, but toward the close of November he began to make plans to visit the trading posts of British traders. On December 10 he left his little stockade near Little Falls. The party took with them prairie sleds and a preoque, towed by three men. On December 14, just after leaving the encampment, the foremost sled, carrying his baggage and powder, fell into the river. But sufficient was saved to continue the journey. On December 31, 1805, he passed the mouth of Pine river. On January 2, 1806, just as he was encamping, four, Chippewas, Grant, an Englishman, and a Frenchman of the Northwest Company arrived. The next day Pike returned with Grant to one of the posts on the Red Cedar lake and found the British flag flying. That night he came back to his men. On January 8 he reached Sandy lake, Grant's residence, and was received with hospitality. After a visit of twelve days, he left on the 20th, and on February 1 he crossed Leach lake, twelve miles from the establishment of the Northwest Company, where he arrived at three o'clock in the afternoon. The gates were locked, but, upon knocking, he was admitted and cordially greeted by Hugh McGillis, the principal trader of the Northwest Company west of Lake Superior, being the director of the Fond du Lac department.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The early movements of the traders in Morrison county were somewhat complicated, and difficult to trace out at this late date. In 1826 Charles Larose and Charles Chawboile had a trading post for at least two winters on a small flatboat on the east side of the Mississippi near Big Bend. In 1837, when Wadena came down from the north country, he found two trading posts near together on the west side of the Mississippi, just below where later the ferry crossed at Swan river. The buildings then appeared quite old.

An Indian trading post was established at a very early day in the east side of the Mississippi, in what was later known as Bellevue township. Of this post, Duncan McDougal, a former resident, said when he was at the place, in the spring of 1849, the logs of the building were fully half decayed; also stated that the post had been run by August Ballangier and Baptiste Roy for Allen Morrison.

Previous to 1835 all goods were brought across from Lake Superior, but after that date from points below on the Mississippi. About 1844, Mr. Ewing, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, in company with others, established a trading post at Swan river on the east side of the Mississippi. Philip Beaupre and Lewis Morrow were employed by this company in 1846. The firm was superseded by Peter Chonteau & Company.

The earliest missionary in Morrison county, aside from the Catholics in 1838, was the Rev. Samuel Spates, a native of Kentucky, born in 1815, and sent by the Methodist Episcopal church into the Northwest. He established a mission near the mouth of Little Elk river in October, 1839. He was assisted by Revs. Allen Huddleston, George Copway and John Johnson, the latter being a converted Ojibway Indian. Subsequently Rev. Spates removed to Sandy lake, then to Fond du Lac, and, in 1856, returned to Little Falls, Minnesota. Two years later he moved to Cannon Falls, Minnesota. John Johnson, the converted Indian, later located at White Earth mission and was ordained as an Episcopal clergyman.

In 1881 the oldest inhabitant of this county was a Little Falls man named William Nicholson. He came to Swan river in the summer of 1847, in company with ten other men. They forded the Mississippi just below the Swan river ferry, and there made a raft of hewed timbers from pine trees growing on the river bank, for use in the construction of the first dam at St. Anthony Falls. They ran the raft only a few miles, then abandoned it on account of low water. Nicholson went below and returned, in the spring of 1848, crossed the Mississippi at the same place, in company with twenty-two other men, and cut a roadway through to Long Prairie. He returned after completing the road, and found William Aitken, who had made a claim and was building a hotel and store building on the east bank of the Mississippi at the crossing. William Aitkin located at Swan river and in 1848 conducted the Indian trading post. Aitkin had an eventful life, and he died in 1851, aged sixty-five years. He had two Indian wives. They quarreled and fought savagely at the funeral as to who should have the remains and he chief mourner; wife number one came off victorious.



James Green made a "squatter's" claim in 1848, and built a saw-mill on the east side of the Mississippi river by the island at the falls. William Knowles located at the mouth of Rabbit river in 1849. John Stillwell, who came to Swan river in 1849, was by trade a carpenter and worked at his trade until 1856, when he embarked in the hotel business. In 1888 he and pioneer William Nicholson were the only old settlers of Swan river remaining in this county.

Historian Nathan Richardson said in 1876, in his letters, that the Chippewas were seldom hostile toward the whites, while the Sioux would kill stock to supply their needs, and never thought of paying for the same.

Father Pierz, a Catholic missionary, came to Minnesota, among the Chippewa Indians, in 1852, and, finding the country well adapted to agriculture, he wrote letters describing the beauty of the country and the fertility of the soil, and sent them to several of the leading newspapers of both Germany and America, which soon caused a large emigration, a part of which finally located in Morrison county. In this connection it will be well to give a brief account of the work of this faithful old missionary, at the date of the Indian outbreak, showing as it does his bravery and true missionary character.

In the autumn of 1862, during that never-to-be-forgotten Indian warfare, the Chippewa Indians, under their chief, Hole-in-the-Day, were assembled at Gull lake, threatening an attack on the whites. Father Pierz was in the vicinity of St. Paul at the time and hearing of the hostile attitude of the Indians, immediately set out alone to go to Gull lake, traveling day and night. On his way he met the Indian guards, who positively refused to let him pass. He insisted and, unable to longer withstand his importuning, the guards picked him up and carried him over the dead-line, across which they were ordered to let no white man pass alive. He proceeded to their camp and saw their chief. What effect this interview with Hole-in-the-Day had is not definitely known, but the Indians did not attack the whites as contemplated. It is certain the white people had in Father Pierz a true friend who would not desert them in times of great danger. He labored in the mission until 1874, when he retired on account of old age, going to Germany to spend the remainder of his days. He died in Germany in January, 1880, having attained the ripe age of ninety-two years.

Another faithful missionary of the Cross, of the Protestant faith, was Frederick Ayer, whose son still resides at Little Falls, respected and honored by all within this section of Minnesota. Rev. Frederick Ayer, a

native of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, was sent out by the American Board of Foreign Missions, and came to Sandy lake, Minnesota, in 1831, and to Red lake in 1842, and finally to Belle prairie, Morrison county, in 1848. Here he soon opened up an extensive farm, doing the first breaking in the county in the summer of 1849, using oxen borrowed from Hon. Henry M. Rice. Desiring to work in a religious way among the Indians as well as among the white settlers, he erected a large dwelling in 1850 and a commodious school house, which also served as a church for a number of years. The house was still standing in the eighties, a fit and suitable reminder or memorial of those early sacrifices by one who spent his whole life in the cause of religion and education.

Rev. A. B. Adams, a missionary, who went to Red Cedar, or Cass lake, about 1845, settled in Morrison county in the Platte river vicinity, and preached several years, then removed to Michigan.

O. A. Coe came to Minnesota in 1838, working on the St. Croix and Snake rivers. He visited Belle prairie in 1849, and came to this place in 1853, engaging in farming pursuits.

Of the numerous early settlers in this county, additional to these few above named, the reader is referred to the various township histories.

#### OLDEST LIVING SETTLER.

In the publication known as "Upper Mississippi Valley," published in 1881, the following is said concerning pioneer William Nicholson: "William Nicholson, the oldest living settler in Morrison county at this date, was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, in 1828. In childhood his parents removed to Ohio, where his mother died in 1844. The following year William left home, and came with friends to Platte Mounds, Wisconsin. In September, 1847, he came to Minnesota with a surveying party, and engaged at surveying north of St. Paul. In that autumn he joined a crew who came up the river, near this vicinity, for timber for the dam about to be constructed at St. Anthony falls. Returning to St. Paul, he spent the winter on the survey and returned to Wisconsin in March. In July, 1848, on the removal of the Winnebago Indians from Wisconsin and Iowa, he engaged as government teamster at Watab and Long Prairie. In the latter place he found the Indian agent, Fletcher, and remained in his employ until October, putting up a building for a trading post. The winter of 1849-50 was spent in the pineries. The following August he came to

Swan river, remaining until 1858. After the Indian outbreak, at the time of the treaty with the Chippewas, he was taken prisoner, not being held long, however. During the period of fear and anxiety he was of great service to the garrison and settlers, making several secret trips, and once, at a great risk, guiding James Whitehead and Lafferty, the former bearer of an important dispatch, to Crow Wing agency. In the fall of 1862 Mr. Nicholson went on a trapping expedition and then settled in Little Falls. After seven years he moved to his farm and lived in peace and retirement, the remainder of his days.

#### A HALF-BREED SETTLER.

Hon. Peter Roy, born 1828, in what is now Itasca county, Minnesota, was the son of two half breeds. He came to Morrison county in 1855, remained until 1857, moved to Crow Wing and there opened a store. In 1862 he returned to this county, settling in 1866 in Little Falls village. He engaged in the hotel business, which he followed until his sudden death, in June, 1881, dropping from his chair when apparently in excellent health. He was three times elected to a seat in the Minnesota Legislature from Morrison county, and was town clerk at the date of his death. In 1853 he married, at the Chippewa agency, Miss Philomon Chouinard, part Indian, by whom fourteen children were born.

#### SWEDISH SETTLEMENTS IN MORRISON COUNTY.

The climate of Minnesota is very similar to that of Sweden, more so than that of any other state in the Union. The soil and the vegetation is also about the same here as in their old home and it is therefore but natural that the Swedes should have settled in Minnesota in large numbers and that Morrison county, located as it is in the very center of the state, should have attracted a good many of these intelligent and industrious settlers.

In comparison, however, with the oldest Swedish settlements in the state, those in Morrison county are of a recent date. Already, fifty years ago, there were large, prosperous Swedish settlements in the southern part of the state, while the oldest one in Morrison county, that of Upsala, twenty miles southwest of Little Falls, dates back only since the year 1880. During that decade a number of Swedes came in to join their friends and

acquaintances in that settlement, but it was not until the year 1890 that any particular influx of Swedes to Morrison county took place.

Since that year, however, systemized efforts directed from Little Falls were made, and hundreds of settlers of that nationality were brought in to take up vacant lands. The erroneous impression frequently prevails that a good many of these people came direct from the old country. As a matter of fact, not one in a hundred of the Swedes that leave the old country has on his arrival here money enough to buy a piece of land. He must first earn money for this purpose and the Swedes who settled in Morrison county came from the cities, the mines or the railroad or lumber camps—from anywhere where wages were good.

Brought up on farms where dairying and diversified farming have been carried on for generations, these new settlers were experienced farmers and, besides that, they were now broadened and educated by travel. They very quickly adapted themselves to the new conditions and surroundings and they were able and willing to work and work hard.

This was, to be sure, also required as the lands that were taken up by them were, while undoubtedly the best and most productive in the county, also the most difficult to bring under cultivation. The growth of these Swedish settlements for the first few years was accordingly slow. Perseverance and ability won, however, and that these settlers were amply rewarded for their labors can be seen by anyone visiting their settlements today.

Take the neighborhood a few miles northwest of Little Falls, for instance. Twenty-five years ago it was about as uninviting a country as could possibly be imagined. The road followed the "hogsback," a jackpine-covered ridge, and the travelers' first impression would be that, between swamp and sand, there was little choice. Travel that same road today and you will see fertile fields, well-kept farm houses, roomy barns, large silos and herds of blooded cattle grazing on the hill sides.

This is the Darling Swedish settlement, where some two hundred Swedes—or Swedish-Americans, to be correct, as nearly all the people of the Swedish nationality in Morrison county are naturalized Americans—now enjoy genuine and well-earned prosperity, supporting two churches, the Swedish Lutheran, built in 1897 and the Swedish Mission church, built in 1913.

About ten miles southwest of this settlement, north of Flensburg and Swanville, on the Little Falls & Dakota railroad, a number of Swedes have also settled, but while they have their own church, the Scandinavian Evan-

gelical, built in 1896, this Swedish settlement is not as cohesive as those of Upsala, Darling and Freedhem.

This latter Swedish settlement, one of the agricultural gems of Morrison county, commences about six miles northeast of Little Falls and takes in parts of Belle Prairie, Ripley and Buh townships. Here we find a large farmers' co-operative creamery, a store, two Swedish churches—the Swedish Lutheran, built in 1901, and the Swedish Free church, built in 1902—and a large number of thrifty, prosperous and up-to-date farmers.

Besides, in these distinctly Swedish settlements a large number of Swedes, estimated at about one thousand five hundred, live in Little Falls, where they are well represented in business, in politics, in the professions, or on farms and five- and ten-acre tracts in the immediate vicinity of this city. With hardly any exception, they own their own homes and while, as a matter of course, supporting their own churches—the Swedish Lutheran, Swedish Methodist and the Swedish Congregational—and affiliated societies, the people of the Swedish nationality, here as wherever they settle, are not in the least clannish or narrow-minded, but, on the contrary, as enlightened and law-abiding, as successful and worthy, as public-spirited and progressive as the people of any other nationality, barring none.

#### NORWEGIAN SETTLERS.

Although the Norwegians are very numerous in the state of Minnesota, they are very few and far between in Morrison county. There are approximately one hundred families in the county, of which sixty reside in Little Falls, the balance being scattered in the country districts. They are so few and scattered that no effort has been made to organize and maintain churches anywhere in the county except in the city of Little Falls, where one small congregation is maintained.

The first Norwegians came here in 1883 and from that time on kept coming in single file and settled singly here and there. No effort was made to get together for the purpose of organizing schools and churches until in 1891, when a congregation was organized in Little Falls, which has since been maintained. But less than half of the Norwegians who live in Little Falls belong to this church. The other half either do not belong to any or have joined the reformed churches. The congregation in Little Falls has been served since its organization by five pastors from the general Norwegian Lutheran synod in the order named: Rorvick, Grove, Thallehaug, Hallanger and Mortenson.

Although numerically few, the Norwegians are quite an important element of the population of the county. They are here, as elsewhere, in the state, industrious and prosperous, and take an effective and intelligent interest in public affairs. There are no paupers or illiterates among them, and they give the peace officers no trouble. In the country districts they own some of the largest and best cultivated farms, while in the city of Little Falls they include several of the business men, two of the professional men, the superintendent of the big saw-mill and some of its foremen.

#### THE GERMAN POPULATION.

All through the county the German people are found in goodly numbers and, as their biographies appear in the second volume of this work, and mention having also been made of their settlement in the various township and village histories, it is unnecessary to go into detail about their first and subsequent settlement in Morrison county. It will suffice to remark that some of the best citizens and captains of industry found in the county today are of the German nationality. They are always frugal, honest and loyal to the flag of this country and are sure to become allied with our people by becoming naturalized at the first opportunity offered.

#### THE FRENCH IN MORRISON COUNTY.

By Arthur Lamonthé.

The French of the province of Quebec were to Morrison county what they had been to the whole state of Minnesota among its pioneers. What could have enticed them from the beautiful valley of the St. Lawrence to wander to the then little known valley of the Mississippi no one familiar with the adventurous dispositions of the race will be at a loss to know. Was it not their forefathers who were the first explorers of the American Northwest? The names of some are linked with famous discoveries, like that of the Father of Waters, Lake Superior, the Rocky Mountains and other important points in the vast country. But how many obscure explorers started from Canada, some with the noble ambition to bring to the pagan natives the light of the Gospel, others spurred by the patriotic motive of adding new possession to France, and finally, the majority seeking fortune in the profitable fur trade. After the English conquest of 1759 many of those adventurous "couriers des Bois" returned to France, but the odd

sixty thousand "habitants" who submitted to the conqueror furnished a good number of recruits to the fur companies and the lumber kings. They were for the most part young men from the farm whose imagination was fired by the stories of returning adventurers; the far away, the unknown, fascinated them also, and they started west, dreaming of fortune and adventure. Their inborn love of the soil induced them finally to settle on a farm and found a home.

That part of the state of Minnesota which is now Morrison county offered advantages to the early settlers. Crossed by the Mississippi, a much traveled road connecting the northern regions to St. Paul, passed through it following the river. The soil along the river was not the best, but it was easy to break and its settlers were saved from the isolation so much dreaded by a sociable race.

As it is difficult to give accurate dates as to the coming and settling of the French pioneers of Morrison county, I will divide them in decades, starting with 1850.

#### FRENCH SETTLERS OF THE FIFTIES.

After the short span of sixty odd years, it is almost impossible to find out who was really the first French settler. That honor is claimed for Peter Chouinard, a blacksmith, whose shop stood on the old fair grounds, north of Little Falls. I have not been able to ascertain where he came from and the date of his death. He was the father of Mrs. Peter Roy and Mrs. Narcisse Gravel.

Martin Bisson is looked upon as the pioneer of the French race in Morrison county. He was a man universally respected for his honesty and much sought after for his generous hospitality. I am told that his modest home was crowded by travelers or prospective settlers whom he had induced to settle in his neighborhood. Mr. Bisson was born in Maskinonge, Quebec, about 1790. As a young man he had been engaged in the fur trade in the Northwest, had married a sister of the Beaulieu, a people closely associated with the early history of Minnesota, had returned to his native home, where he purchased a fine farm. But the fascination of the West was too great to permit him to enjoy the peaceful life of a farmer in a quiet rural community. He sold out and came to Belle Prairie, bringing with him two of his neighbors, John Branchaud and Theodore Bellefeuille, who eventually became his sons-in-law. He must have lived about thirty years in Belle

Prairie, to which he was really a benefactor, giving forty acres of his farm for the church. In his old days he followed his children to White Earth, where he died.

The other early settlers of Belle Prairie and Little Falls came in this order:

Peter Picotte, born at Louisville, Quebec, in 1832, came in the fifties to Belle Prairie, after trying to reach California by the way of the ox road over the plains. He turned his steps to Minnesota to join his former neighbor, Martin Bisson, and made his home in Belle Prairie. He married a daughter of Charles Chartier, another pioneer of Belle Prairie, who was born in the Canadian Northwest.

William Butler, a prominent figure among the French pioneers of Morrison county, was born at Chateauguay, Quebec, about 1829. In his early youth he had lived in Glens Falls, New York, where he learned the tanner's trade. He came to Morrison county in the year 1855, worked for a time as clerk for the Little Falls Manufacturing Company and started a store in company with F. X. Gravel, whose share he bought out later. He married Mary Holmes, a lady much esteemed for her many good qualities. Mr. Butler died in 1887, leaving quite an estate. Mrs. Butler survived him twenty-eight years.

Moses Laford was a native of Maskinonge county and a settler in the fifties. He was for a time a butcher, a lumber man, a merchant and a hotel keeper. He was elected as a representative of Morrison county to the state Legislature. He died at Little Falls in 1905, at the age of sixty-nine.

Another French settler, who was a member of the state Legislature, was Peter Roy, familiarly called Periche Roy. To him is attributed the fact that St. Paul remained the capital of the state when a bill was drafted to transfer it to St. Peter. Roy disappeared with the bill till the end of the session. The ruse saved the day for St. Paul. If the world was not so forgetful of its benefactors, Periche Roy would have his statue in the marble capitol of Minnesota instead of a marble slab in Calvary cemetery of Little Falls, where the forgotten legislator sleeps his last sleep since 1882.

Joseph Doucette, also a settler of the fifties, was a native of Gentilly, Quebec.

Other French settlers of the same decade were: Michel Heroux, Sr. He returned to Canada. His son, Michel, married a daughter of Michel Ledoux, who moved to Minnesota from Illinois. The Houde family came also from the same state. Wilfrid and Ludger Dugas came with Oliver



Brousseau, who afterwards settled on the farm of Charles Lamontagne, who was drowned at Sauk Rapids with a certain Chanette. Felix Bastien and his brother, Simon. Narcisse Gravel, a native of Yamachiche, Quebec. He was later followed by his parents, his brothers, Charles, Honore and James. Louis Hamlin, his stepfather, Joseph Fournier, David Morin, Cyriaque Dufort, Czia Roy, Alec Riendeau, William and Alfred Racicot, Elie Paquin, Eusebe Monchamp, a nephew of Martin Bisson, Calixte Vallee, Frank Thiebault, Joseph Dugal, Antoine, Leo and Joseph Boisjoli.

#### FRENCH SETTLERS OF THE SIXTIES.

Paschal Doucette, Hector Doucette, F. X. Goulet, Odilon Duclos, Nazaire Morin, George Morrison, Doctor Braun, a former army surgeon, David Lachance, Arius Rocheleau, Henry Racicot.

#### FRENCH SETTLERS OF THE SEVENTIES.

Elzear Doucette, Felix Rocheleau, Desire Branchaud; the three brothers, David Sinai and Gedan Doucette; Guenard Bisson, a nephew of Martin Bisson; Edmund Richard, Sr., Francis Richard, Sr., L. E. Richard, J. B. Richard, Joseph Gendron.

#### FRENCH SETTLERS OF THE EIGHTIES.

Gedeon Laford, Delphis Laford, Isadore Laford, Napoleon Laford, Alfred Germain, Joseph Foisy, William Foisy, and Dr. G. M. A. Fortir.

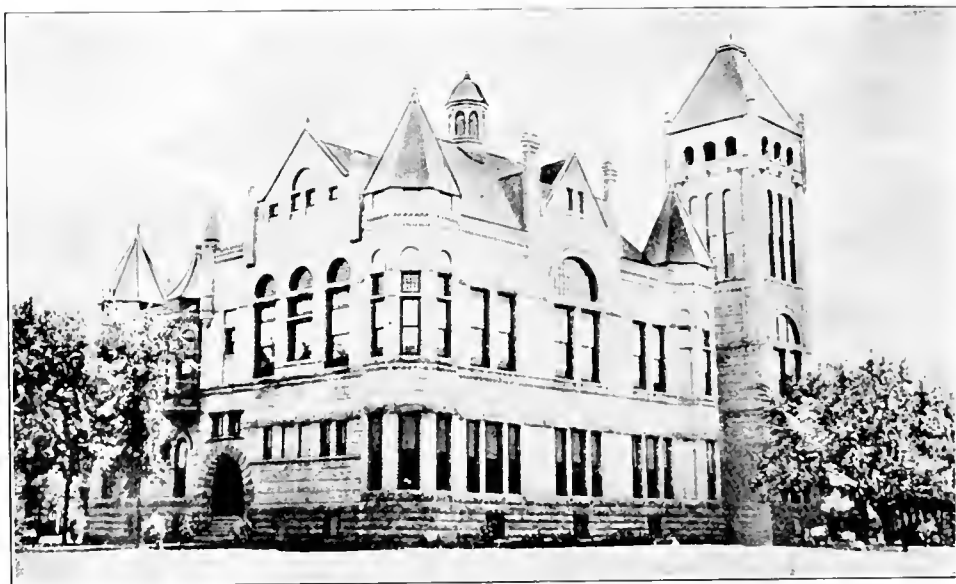
#### EARLY FRENCH PRIESTS.

The spiritual needs of the early French settlers were attended by Father Pierz, who was working among the Indians. Father Buh joined him later and made himself all to all. In the late seventies they secured a priest of their own language in Father Chandonnet. Father Carufel worked a number of years in Belle Prairie and Little Falls, where he was succeeded by Father Fortier, who was the first residing pastor of the Catholics of Little Falls.

## FRENCH SETTLERS OF TODD COUNTY.

Some French people were induced to settle in the neighborhood of Long Prairie by the quality of the soil. Among them Delphis Paquin, who first lived in Belle Prairie with his father, Elie Paquin. His nephew, Louis St. Antoine, who had served four years in the Civil War, took a homestead near him. Maxime Pepin settled near Swanville. The two brothers, J. B. Blais and Nazaire Blais, established themselves there also.





MORRISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE, LITTLE FALLS



CARNEGIE LIBRARY, LITTLE FALLS

## CHAPTER V.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

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#### ORGANIZATION OF MORRISON COUNTY.

Morrison county was organized by an act of the territorial Legislature, approved February 25, 1856. It was named in honor of Hon. Allen W. Morrison, who came to Minnesota in the twenties and was prominent in the early history of the territory of Minnesota. The first election was held on April 14, 1856, when the following officers were elected: William Trask, Elliott J. Kidder and W. W. Stebbins, county commissioners; Nathan Richardson, register of deeds; James Fergus, judge of probate; Jonathan Pugh, sheriff; W. B. Fairbanks, district attorney; W. W. Tuttle and John Fry, assessors.

The territory comprising Morrison county has been divided, and subdivided, into many civil townships or precincts. Among these changes may be named, in brief, the following: First it was divided into three townships, Little Falls, Platte River and Swan River. In the spring of 1858, the county commissioners organized the county into four civil townships, Belle Prairie, Granite, Little Falls and Bellevue. In 1881 the county had townships as follows: Belle Prairie, Bellevue, Buckman, Culdrum, Elmdale, Green Prairie, Little Falls, Motley, Oakwood, Parker, Pierz, Swan River and Two Rivers. By 1888 the townships were increased by four more sub-divisions, Agram, Morrill, Pike Creek and Ripley.

As now constituted (1915) the civil townships are as follows: Agram, Buh, Belle Prairie, Bellevue, Buckman, Clough, Cushing, Culdrum, Darling, Elmdale, Granite, Green Prairie, Hillman, Leigh, Little Falls, Lakin, Mt. Morris, Morrill, Motley, Pulaski, Platte, Pike Creek, Ripley, Rosing, Rail Prairie, Swanville, Swan River, Scandia Valley, Two Rivers, Richardson, Pierz and Parker.

Originally, that portion of Morrison county to the west of the Mississ-

ippi river, belonged to Todd county, but by a popular vote of twenty to eighteen, in 1864, it was attached to Morrison county.

#### COURT HOUSE HISTORY.

Unlike many other counties in Minnesota, Morrison county has never had any difficulty over locating its county seat. The act providing for the organization of the county also stipulated that Little Falls should be the seat of justice, and it has never been removed. At the first meeting of the board of county commissioners, in May, 1856, they divided the county into three separate voting precincts, Little Falls, Swan River and Platte River. At the November meeting, that year, the commissioners voted to pay William Sturgis eight thousand dollars, to erect a court house, and on the 24th of the same month bonds were issued and delivered to said Sturgis. These bonds were eight in number, each calling for the sum of one thousand dollars, the first falling due in three years, and each subsequent year one fell due. The rate of interest was twelve per cent. per annum. Sturgis proceeded to erect the court house and, after having it roofed and enclosed, but far from completion, failed, leaving the structure in an unfinished condition. He had disposed of the bonds to a banker in Washington, D. C., who demanded payment as the bonds became due, but was refused by the county commissioners, because the building had not been completed as called for in the contract. The matter engaged the attention of commissioners and the courts for a number of years, and finally, in July, 1869, a compromise was effected by which, under the administration of Commissioners William Butler, William Harrison and Richard L. Trask, the old bonds were taken up and new ones issued to the amount of eight thousand dollars, bearing seven per cent, one thousand dollars falling due each year until all should be paid for. It was in this manner that the first court house in this county was secured and paid for. It was a frame structure, which stood on the site of the present temple of justice. When the new building was to be built, the old frame building was moved to another place and now stands facing the south on First avenue south, nearly opposite the Buckman hotel, a little to the east. It was a well-constructed building, for now, after all these eventful years and exposure to the elements, it is still in good repair and is used for private business enterprises. The front only has been changed; it had large columns in front when used as a court house, but this has been changed and the old portico has been enclosed, giving more floor space within the building. It is now owned by the Maurin estate.

## THE PRESENT COURT HOUSE.

About 1890 it was found wise and necessary, in order to preserve the county records and furnish a place in keeping with the growth of the county, to erect a new, larger and more satisfactory place in which the county officers and courts could be accommodated in the performance of their several duties. Consequently the county bonded itself in the sum of forty thousand dollars, issuing bonds running as long as thirty years and none payable within ten years. They drew five per cent. per annum and were, by bidding, struck off to the First National Bank of Little Falls at forty thousand one hundred and six dollars, on July 14, 1890. In July, 1891, another set of bonds were issued for fifteen thousand dollars, with which to furnish and equip the new court house and its various offices, making the total cost of the present structure about sixty-five thousand dollars. The county commissioners, at the time of the letting of the contract for this building, were, John Stumpf, Peter Medved, N. Gravel and Dennis Sheedy.

In July, 1898, the commissioners ordered a United States flag to be erected on the court house and appointed a committee to procure a suitable staff and flag, which provision was soon carried out and "Old Glory" was unfurled to the breeze.

In October, 1891, the court house was first lighted by electric lights, the contract being that the county should pay the sum of three hundred dollars per year for lighting both the court house and county jail.

This court house is an ornament to the county and a monument to the wisdom and good sense of the officers and taxpayers of Morrison county. It is a yellow brick structure, with a tall tower surmounting the superstructure, in which there is soon to be placed a handsome clock, the same having been provided for in the will of the late Josiah Page, who left for such purpose the sum of two thousand dollars.

The court house has ample rooms for all the officials and a spacious court room and jury rooms. It is both heated and lighted by modern methods—steam and electricity.

## COUNTY JAIL HISTORY.

The first regular jail in Morrison county was the one situated on the public square, built of square timbers; it was sixteen by twenty-four feet,

two stories high. It still stands opposite the court house, being clapboarded, however.

The present jail is situated on the southeast corner of the court house square. It is a yellow brick building, erected in 1888, at a cost of seven thousand five hundred dollars (original contracts) and was improved in 1897, by the addition of three new steel cages, which were thought to be safe as against the escape of prisoners. However, several prisoners have been able to make good their escape since then. For various reasons, the building has been condemned by general public opinion and will doubtless ere long be replaced by a more attractive and up-to-date building. Prior to the building of the old log or timber jail mentioned, all prisoners were kept at St. Cloud, or guarded at Little Falls by the sheriff.

#### CARING FOR THE POOR.

Every county has to contend with and provide for the maintenance of her unfortunate poor. Some counties in Minnesota have their poor farms and find that to be the most economical method by which the poor can be cared for. Morrison county has tried both plans and neither is without fault. Up to 1887, no attempt had been made to have a county farm, but in August of that year the commissioners leased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres at two hundred and fifty dollars per year, and appointed Martin Wenzel and wife as keepers of the same. This was in the neighborhood of Belle Prairie, but, after experimenting with such a plan until the autumn of 1889, it was abolished. It was not until June, 1890, that the commissioners changed from the county to the township plan of caring for the paupers of the county. The vote by the board on this question stood, four for the township and one for the county plan. Since then the various townships have looked after and maintained their own poor.

#### TAX LEVY OF 1857 AND 1876.

It may be of interest to note what taxes were levied more than a half century ago in Morrison county, when it had only been organized a short time. The total tax levy that year (in 1857) was on \$466,487 worth of property. The annual tax levy amounted to \$3,965.15, only eight and one-half mills on the dollar. Property then consisted mostly of wild land that had been entered at three dollars per acre.

In 1876, the total valuation was placed at \$800,222 and a levy of eleven



mills was made, two mills being for state tax, and one mill for special school tax. The average value of wild land was then three dollars per acre.

#### PROPERTY VALUATION IN 1914.

According to the county auditor's statement for 1914 the following were the assessed valuations of property in Morrison county at that time:

Agram township, \$158,859; Belle Prairie township, \$314,115; Buh township, \$315,351; Buckman township, \$468,085; Bellevue township, \$314,891; Clough township, \$161,922; Cushing township, \$142,502; Culdrum township, \$296,486; Darling township, \$200,286; Elm Dale township, \$499,326; Granite township, \$211,496; Green Prairie township, \$79,440; Hillman township, \$113,276; Lakin township, \$154,461; Little Falls township, \$240,955; Leigh township, \$165,242; Mt. Morris township, \$119,417; Morrill township, \$155,065; Motley township, \$132,277; Pierz township, \$345,655; Pike Creek township, \$278,863; Pulaski township, \$141,357; Platte township, \$161,794; Parker township, \$231,298; Rail Prairie township, \$173,287; Rosing township, \$73,434; Richardson township, \$143,703; Ripley township, \$324,697; Village of Swanville, \$79,347; Scandia Valley township, \$272,419; Swan River township, \$311,740; Two Rivers township, \$308,727; Royalton village, \$122,119; City of Little Falls, \$1,677,597; Village of Randall, \$46,309. Total, \$9,025,108.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT—1914-15.

The following is a copy of a part of the financial statement made by the county auditor of Morrison county, for the period between November 1, 1914, and March 1, 1915:

##### *Receipts.*

Balance in treasury-----	\$168,262
From tax collections-----	91,044
Collected on public lands-----	5,065
Collected on fines and licenses-----	8,278
School apportionment and state aid-----	24,276
Hunting and fishing licenses-----	255
Other items disbursed-----	2,976
 Total -----	 \$300,156

*Disbursements.*

Orders on reserve funds -----	\$9,237
Road and Bridge fund -----	18,625
Interest fund -----	4,481
Town fund -----	23,150
School district fund -----	66,618
State tax -----	10,242
Wolf bounty -----	750
Other items -----	169,053
	<hr/>
Total -----	\$300,156

## BANK DEPOSITS OF COUNTY, 1914-15.

The following is a list of banks and amounts of the county's funds deposited for the year 1914-15:

First National Bank, of Little Falls-----	\$46,545
German-American Bank, of Little Falls---	43,404
Merchants State Bank, of Little Falls-----	43,334
German State Bank of Pierz-----	1,090
First National Bank of Royalton-----	3,121
State Bank of Randall -----	1,032
Peoples State of Swanville -----	1,039
Farmers and Merchants of Royalton-----	1,037
Morrison County Bank of Bowlus-----	4,875
First State Bank of New Pierz (Genola)---	1,037
First State Bank of Swanville-----	1,034
	<hr/>
Total funds deposited by county-----	\$163,211

## CHAPTER VI.

### COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The following is a list of the various persons who have served as representatives of Morrison county, either in county, state or national positions:

#### GOVERNORS OF MINNESOTA.

1857—Henry H. Sibley.	1888—W. R. Merriam
1859—Alexander Ramsey	1890—W. R. Merriam
1861—Alexander Ramsey	1892—Knute Nelson
1863—Stephen Miller	1894—Knute Nelson
1865—W. R. Marshall	1896—David M. Clough
1867—W. R. Marshall	1898—William H. Eustis
1869—Horace Austin	1900—Samuel R. Van Sant
1871—Horace Austin	1902—Samuel R. Van Sant
1873—C. K. Davis	1904—John A. Johnson
1875—J. S. Pillsbury	1906—John A. Johnson
1877—J. S. Pillsbury	1908—John A. Johnson
1879—J. S. Pillsbury	1910—Adolph O. Eberhart
1881—L. F. Hubbard	1912—Adolph O. Eberhart
1883—L. F. Hubbard	1914—Winfield S. Hammond.
1888—A. R. McGill	

#### CONGRESSMEN.

The congressmen who have served the people of Morrison county since the 1872 apportionment are as follow:

*Apportionment of 1872 (Third District)*—John T. Averill, Republican, March, 1872, to March, 1875; William F. King, Republican, 1875-1877; Jacob H. Stewart, Republican, March, 1877, to March, 1879; William D. Washburn, Republican, March, 1879, to March, 1883; Henry Poehler,

Democrat, March, 1879, to March, 1881; H. B. Strait, Republican, March, 1881, to March, 1887; John L. McDonald, Democrat, March, 1887, to March, 1889; Darwin S. Hall, Republican, March, 1889, to March, 1891; O. M. Hall, Democrat, March, 1891, to March, 1895; Joel P. Heatwole, Republican, March, 1895, to March, 1903; Charles R. Davis, Republican, March, 1903, to March, 1907.

*Apportionment of 1881 (Fifth District)*—Knut Nelson, Republican, March, 1883, to March, 1889; S. G. Comstock, Republican, March, 1889, to March, 1891; Kittel Holverson, Alliance, March, 1891, to March, 1893; Loren Fletcher, Republican, March, 1893, to March, 1903; John Lind, Democrat, March, 1903, to March, 1905; Loren Fletcher, Republican, March, 1905, to March, 1907; Frank M. Nye, March, 1907, to March, 1913; George R. Smith, March, 1913, to March, 1917.

*Apportionment of 1891 (Sixth District)*—M. R. Baldwin, Democrat, March, 1893, to March, 1895; Charles A. Towne, Republican, March, 1895, to March, 1903; Page Morris, Republican, March, 1897, to March, 1903; C. B. Buckman, Republican, March, 1897, to March, 1907; Charles A. Lindbergh, March, 1907, to March, 1917.

#### STATE SENATORS.

Since 1860 the state senators representing Morrison county have been as given below. The year noted indicates the session of the Legislature in which serving: 1861, Seth Gibbs; 1862, S. B. Lowry; 1864, J. P. Wilson; 1865, J. P. Wilson; 1866, R. M. Richardson; 1867, Louis A. Evans; 1868, C. A. Gilman; 1869, C. A. Gilman; 1870, H. C. Wait; 1871, H. C. Wait; 1872, R. J. Chewning; 1873, R. J. Chewning; 1874, Ignatius Donnelly; 1875, Ignatius Donnelly; 1876, Ignatius Donnelly; 1877, Ignatius Donnelly; 1878, Ignatius Donnelly; 1879, C. P. Adams; 1881, C. P. Adams; 1883, C. A. Pillsbury; 1885, C. A. Pillsbury; 1887, L. Swenson; 1889, L. Swenson; 1891, George Geisel; 1893, George Geisel; 1895, W. M. Fuller; 1897, W. M. Fuller; 1899, C. B. Buckman; 1901, C. B. Buckman; 1903, A. F. Ferris; 1905, John T. Frater; 1907, S. F. Alderman; 1909, S. F. Alderman; 1911, C. D. Johnson; 1913, C. D. Johnson; 1915, George H. Gardner.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

Since 1860 the men who have represented the district in which Morrison county has been situated have been as follows (years given are sessions): 1861, Thomas Cathcart, Levi Wheeler, P. S. Gregory; 1862, R. M. Richardson, Peter Roy, John Whipple; 1864, R. M. Richardson, W. T. Rigby, C. A. Ruffee; 1864, Oscar Taylor, Louis A. Evans, W. T. Rigbee; 1866, N. F. Barns, Thomas Cathcart, B. Overpeck; 1867, H. N. Miller, N. Richardson; 1868, N. H. Miller, D. G. Pettijohn; 1869, Ludwig Robbers, William H. Hicks; 1870, John L. Wilson, Isaac Thorson; 1871, W. S. Moore, Luke Marvin; 1872, N. Richardson; 1873, John O. Haven; 1874, Moses Lafond; 1875, C. H. Chadbourne; 1876, F. X. Goulet; 1877, John Stumpf; 1878, Nathan Richardson; 1879, A. M. Fridley; 1881, C. B. Buckman; 1883, A. J. Demeules, G. G. Hartley, J. T. D. Sadley; 1885, J. B. Howes, J. T. D. Sadley; 1887, L. E. Lum, J. C. Flynn, W. E. Lee; 1889, R. C. Dunn, J. C. Flynn, W. A. Fleming; 1891, H. C. Stivers, Werner Hemsted, J. H. Sheets, E. E. Price; 1893, W. M. Fuller, Robert C. Dunn, W. A. Fleming, William E. Lee; 1895, J. D. Jones, B. F. Hartshorn, H. R. Mallette; 1897, A. F. Ferris, J. D. Jones, B. F. Hartshorn, H. C. Head; 1899, A. F. Ferris, H. C. Stivers; 1901, A. F. Ferris, Werner Hemsted; 1903, I. W. Bouck, H. A. Rider; 1905, I. W. Bouck, H. A. Rider; 1907, I. W. Bouck, M. N. Young; 1909, Elmer A. King, L. D. Brown; 1911, L. D. Brown, C. W. Bouck; 1913, C. W. Bouck, Louis W. Vasaly; 1915, C. W. Bouck, Louis W. Vasaly, Edward R. Syverson.

## COUNTY OFFICERS.

Only one reason can be given for the following list of officers who have served Morrison county not being complete, namely, the fact that for more than a dozen years after the organization of this county the election returns were not turned over to the secretary of state, as prescribed by law, or not preserved by the county officers. It is to be regretted that the counties of Minnesota are not required to make a permanent record of the elections, as do nearly all other states in the Union. Aided somewhat by the Historical Society at St. Paul, the author has been able to compile the following list, which is as complete as it can now be made from records:

(6)

## AUDITORS.

J. D. Lachance, 1876 to 1885; Frank Ellenbecker, 1885 to 1895; V. E. Kasperek, 1895 to 1897; James A. Nichols, 1897 to 1901; H. N. Harding, 1901 to 1903; William A. Butler, 1903 to 1911; B. Y. McNairy, 1911 to 1919.

## TREASURERS.

Jonathan Taylor, 1876; W. T. Lambert, 1879 to 1885; S. Stoll, 1885 to 1893; Joseph L. Meyer, 1893 to 1901; Lyman Signor, 1903 to 1907; Frank Renick, 1907 to 1919.

## SHERIFFS.

T. J. Hayes, 1876 to 1883; Henry Rasicot, 1883 to 1891; Leon Houde, 1891 to 1895; H. A. Rider, 1895 to 1901; E. S. Tanner, 1901 to 1907; Frank Long, 1907 to 1909; Frank Armstrong, 1909 to 1913; Paul Felix, 1913 to 1919.

## REGISTER OF DEEDS.

L. Signor, 1876 to 1889; Henry Goulet, 1889 to 1897; L. Gaudet, 1897 to 1901; W. H. Hall, 1901 to 1907; Charles E. Vasaly, 1907 to 1911; F. X. Bastien, 1911 to 1919.

## JUDGES OF PROBATE.

G. G. Kimball, 1876 to 1879; Peter Neuman, 1879 to 1881; A. F. Story, 1881 to 1885; Nathan Richardson, 1885 to 1893; Donat Trettel, 1893 to 1895; N. Richardson, 1895 to 1903; E. F. Shaw, 1905 to 1917.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY.

A. J. Clark, 1879 to 1881; Nathan Richardson, 1881 to 1883; D. T. Calhoun, 1883 to 1885; R. M. Worthington, 1885 to 1887; E. B. Breble, 1887 to 1889; Frank W. Lyon, 1889 to 1891; C. A. Lindbergh, 1891 to 1893; Frank W. Lyon, 1893 to 1895; J. H. Rhodes, 1895 to 1897; Frank W. Lyon, 1897 to 1901; F. A. Lindbergh, 1901 to 1907; Don M. Cameron, 1907 to 1913; C. Rosenmier, 1913 to 1919.

## COUNTY SURVEYORS.

Nathan Richardson, 1876 to 1879; W. L. Dow, 1879 to 1883; R. J. Batzer, 1883 to 1885; W. L. Dow, 1885 to 1887; H. S. Clyde, 1887 to 1895; Nels Peterson, 1895 to 1897; H. S. Clyde, 1897 to 1899; Nels Peterson, 1899 to 1901; A. J. Fenn, 1901 to 1913; P. S. Randall, 1913 to 1915; Nels Peterson, 1915 to 1919.

## CORONERS.

Henry Armstrong, 1876 to 1879; J. O. Simmons, 1879 to 1881; A. J. McMannus, 1881 to 1887; G. M. A. Fortier, 1887 to 1895; O. C. Trace, 1895 to 1897; N. Dumont, 1897 to 1899; O. C. Trace, 1899 to 1903; N. W. Chance, 1903 to 1909; P. H. Brown, 1909 to 1911; N. W. Chance, 1911 to 1919.

## CLERK OF THE COURT.

Leon Houde, 1876 to 1887; I. E. Staples, 1887 to 1895; Lyman Signor, 1895 to 1899; S. P. Brick, 1899 to 1913; A. M. Stoll, 1913 to 1919.

## COURT COMMISSIONERS.

W. Rasicot, 1876 to 1879; C. Hayes, 1879 to 1883; R. M. Worthington, 1883 to 1885; I. J. Wright, 1885 to 1889; S. P. Fuller, 1889 to 1893; E. F. Shaw, 1893 to 1901; E. W. Collins, 1901 to 1905; E. A. King, 1905 to 1909; Lud Gaudet, 1909 to 1913; Nels N. Bergheim, 1913 to 1917.

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

A. Guernon, 1879 to 1887; John McDonald, 1887 to 1889; J. H. Seal, 1889 to 1905; Crawford Sheldon, 1905 to 1907; M. E. Barnes, 1907 to 1919.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Since the Australian ballot has been established and the record is kept better, it shows the election of the following county commissioners: John Stumpf (chairman), W. M. Jones, George La Fond, Marcus Kobe, D. Sheedy, 1893; N. Hennen, J. J. Jacobson, W. M. Jones, George La Fond,

D. Sheedy, 1895; Martin Enke, George La Fonde, J. J. Gross, N. Hennen, J. J. Jacobson, 1897; Martin Enke, George La Fonde, J. J. Gross, F. H. Lakin, J. J. Jacobson, 1899; E. W. Sullivan, R. Tedford, J. J. Gross, F. H. Lakin, J. J. Jacobson, 1901; E. S. Sullivan, R. C. Tedford, J. J. Gross, F. H. Lakin, C. P. Smith, 1903; Ole L. Wahl, Andrew Johnson, Peter Virnig, F. H. Lakin, C. P. Smith, 1905; Ole L. Wahl, Andrew Johnson, Peter Virnig, J. J. Jacobson, 1907; A. Herun, D. Rocheleau, Peter Virnig, J. J. Jacobson, F. H. Lakin, 1909; A. Hennen, D. Rocheleau, H. Gassert, F. H. Lakin, M. Viechoek, 1911; the present board is composed of the following members: First district, Andrew Herun; second district, D. Rocheleau, Henry Gassert, F. H. Lakin, Herman Vanselow. The first three named go out of office in 1917 and the others in 1919.

#### COUNTY'S PRESIDENTIAL VOTE.

1860—Lincoln, 53; Douglas, 93. 1864—Lincoln, 25; McClellan, 50. 1868—Grant, 68; Seymour, 139. 1872—Grant, 161; Greeley, 240. 1876—Tilden, 383; Hayes, 216. 1880—Hancock, 667; Garfield, 459. 1884—Blaine, 687; Cleveland, 1,010. 1888—Harrison, 1,042; Cleveland, 1,404. 1892—Harrison, 1,135; Cleveland, 1,310; Weaver, 1,257. 1896—McKinley, 1,960; Bryan, 1,734. 1900—McKinley, 1,880; Bryan, 1,081. 1904—Roosevelt, 2,498; Parker, 1,129. 1908—William H. Taft, 1,936; W. J. Bryan, 1,511; Prohibition candidate, 64. 1912—Taft, 699; Wilson, 1,341; Roosevelt, 1,327.



## CHAPTER VII.

### AGRICULTURE, STOCK RAISING AND DAIRYING.

Morrison county is located near the geographical center of the state, the Mississippi river flowing through it from north to south, dividing it into nearly equal parts. Two lines of railroad pass through the county, the main line of the Northern Pacific from north to south, and the Soo line from west to east.

The surface is rolling and partly timbered, the soil in some parts being dark sandy loam, while in other parts it runs to a heavy clay loam, both of which are rich and productive. Morrison county lays claim to being the ideal locality for diversified farming on account of the productive nature of its soil, ample supply of pure water, sufficient rainfall, good market, and the fact that a crop failure has never been known. With its great natural advantages, and located, as it is, on two direct lines of railroad leading to the great markets of the Northwest, the Twin Cities and Duluth, Morrison county, offers unparalleled inducements to those seeking a home.

### GRAIN.

Wheat, oats, rye, barley, flax, etc., yield bountiful crops, and nearness to the great milling center of the world insures a price above those localities less fortunately situated. That Morrison county stands at the head as a grain-producing county there can be no question when the fact is known that, in competition with counties from all parts of the state, at the Minnesota state fairs of 1908 and 1909, Morrison scored highest on grains, with one hundred and forty-nine points out of a possible one hundred and fifty.

Corn is coming into its own as a profitable commodity in central Minnesota, and is today one of the important crops grown in Morrison county. Both white and yellow Dent are grown, and a crop failure is not known in this section. No other proof of this need be given than the statement that Morrison scored ninety-six per cent. in the county competition at the state fair of 1909.

## POTATOES AND VEGETABLES.

Potatoes are one of the leading and most profitable crops produced by the Morrison county farmer, the nature of the soil being particularly adapted to the production of potatoes of superior quality. The yield is heavy, and a ready market is always found for this crop, a considerable portion of which is purchased by the buyers and shipped to other states for seed purposes.

All kinds of garden vegetables are grown with success, and the crop is of superior quality. As an illustration of this we might mention that a Morrison county grower has taken first prize on celery each year he has exhibited at the state fair, in competition with the entire state.

## FRUITS.

Do not get the idea that central Minnesota is outside the fruit belt, for many kinds of apples, plums, grapes and crabs are successfully grown, and Morrison county can show many fine orchards. At the county exhibit of 1909, thirty-six varieties of apples alone were shown. All kinds of small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, currants, etc., yield abundant crops. Wild fruit and berries are very plentiful in the timbered sections of the county.

## LIVE STOCK.

Stock raising has in the past few years become one of the leading industries of this section. An abundance of wild grass, with immense crops of clover, timothy and other grasses, makes this branch very profitable to the farmer. Hogs do especially well, epidemics being unknown. Carried on with diversified farming, or as a business of itself, Morrison county offers superior inducements to the stock raiser.

## DAIRYING.

Morrison is known as the Bread and Butter county of the Bread and Butter state, and well it deserves the title when the development of the dairying industry in recent years is considered. Today, nearly every township has its creamery, some of them more than one. No industry has advanced more rapidly in volume of business, or been more profitable than dairying. This section is particularly adapted to this line.

The latest obtainable figures on Morrison county's creameries are a portion of the report made to the state in the autumn of 1913 and runs as follows: Number of co-operative creameries, seven; independent creameries, eight; number of patrons, 1,975; number of cows, 19,401; pounds of milk received, 263,000; pounds of cream received, 6,446,000; butter fat in pounds, 2,100,000; average price paid patrons per pound for butter fat, thirty-three cents; total amount paid patrons for butter fat in year, \$523,719.47. The running expenses for all this business in Morrison county was \$41,938.33. Out of eight hundred and three creameries in this state, Morrison county, in 1912, stood eighteenth in rank. The creameries that did this immense business were as follow: Buckman, Pierz, Clover Leaf, Bowlus, Cushing's Farmers Creamery, Bell Prairie, Motley, Lastrup, Morrill, Pierz Farmers Creamery, Randall Co-operative, Swanville, Upsala and Little Falls creameries. It will be observed that a creamery is as important to a community as a large industrial plant, the only difference being that the money is paid to the farmer instead of to factory employees intown or city.

#### FARM LANDS.

Morrison is among the most fertile counties in all Minnesota as regards the production and maturing of profitable crops. It ranges from a black alluvial mould and sandy marl loam, mixed with clay, with sub-soil of clay, one-fourth of which is prairie and the balance originally covered with mixed hard woods and pines. About one-half of the land area is now occupied by two thousand six hundred and twenty-two farms; the balance, three hundred and fifty-seven thousand acres, is yet unimproved. The unimproved land is selling at from fifteen to thirty dollars per acre, while the improved is selling at from thirty to seventy-five dollars per acre.

It should be remembered that, not many years ago, it was believed that this far-north corn could not be successfully produced, and all farming was along the line of small grain, wheat, oats, barley and rye, which is still the chief crop, but by no means all that is grown. After a score of years of experimenting and selecting proper varieties of northern-grown corn, the scene is all changed and now it is common to see mixed farming including corn on the better class of farms, and that with much profit. Considering the high-priced lands of the real Mississippi valley corn belt, there is more money in raising corn, one year with another, in Morrison and adjoining counties than there is in the belt.

Timothy and clover, as well as alfalfa, are revolutionizing the farming systems of Minnesota, including this county. The growth of these grasses is simply wonderful. The potato and other vegetable crops are also astonishing many who are unacquainted with the nature and rare warmth and fertility of the soil in Morrison county. Three hundred bushels of potatoes is not a rare growth per acre in this county.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Morrison county has two agricultural societies, one organized and operating at Little Falls and one at the village of Motley, in the northwestern part of the county. Through the liberal aid of the state, it has been possible to maintain both of these societies, and for the last four years both have had county fairs. The society at Motley held its first fair in 1910. It was very small and unskillfully managed, but the officers have now gotten down to a thorough understanding of the nature and purpose of such a society and they are now conducting a fair on business principles.

The present society at Little Falls was organized in 1911 and succeeded the street fairs, which had been conducted for about five years. This was not the first county society to be organized in Little Falls. There was one organized as early as 1884, which held fairs and continued a troublesome existence for about ten years, when it finally fell into the hands of one man and became extinct. Some years thereafter, or about 1905, the business men of Little Falls attempted to resurrect the old county fair society and for five years conducted fairs in the streets of Little Falls. This way of conducting fairs was unsatisfactory to all concerned and when a new society was organized the purpose was to get away from the streets, secure independent grounds and conduct county fairs along modern lines. The society finally succeeded in buying ten acres of land within the city limits of Little Falls and in 1913 the fair was held within enclosed grounds and was a tremendous success. The attendance in 1913, as shown by the gate receipts, was four thousand, and in 1914 seven thousand, and there were no special attractions, not even races. The grounds are not quite large enough for a race track, but there is more land near by that can be secured, which, if added to the present amount of land, will give the society a half-mile track. The chief interest, however, in the annual county fairs is the exhibit of farm products. The entries in the agricultural line, especially, have been phenomenal and it looks as though the people would come to the fair if there were no amusements

of any kind. In 1914 there were nearly two thousand entries for premiums and the prospects are that this will be almost doubled in the year 1915. The society is in excellent financial condition, having property of an estimated value of ten thousand dollars and an indebtedness of only one thousand five hundred dollars. The present officers of the society are: T. C. Gordon, president; N. M. Bergheim, secretary, and W. H. Ryan, treasurer. The success of this society is due in a large measure to the splendid financial support it has received from the business men of Little Falls and the excellent exhibits furnished by the farmers. It is expected, however, from this time on the society will be self-sustaining and that special contributions will not be needed except for the construction of new buildings. There are four buildings at the present time, which take care of all exhibits except live stock and these are housed in sheds put along the fence. There is a baseball diamond on the grounds and a splendid grand stand with a seating capacity of one thousand.

The pioneer fair of Morrison county was held by the first organized society, which was formed in 1882 and held a county fair in the autumn of that year. The officers were, Jonathan Simmons, president; John Denny, vice-president; O. A. Churchill, secretary, and William Butler, treasurer. One of the directors was Lyman W. Ayer, who is still residing at Little Falls.

#### FARM NAMES.

Under an act passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 1909, effective at once, the following farms have been named by the owners and recorded in the office of the register of deeds at Little Falls. A nominal fee is charged for this recording and it should obtain to a greater extent than it has, although the more sentimental and enterprising farm owners have taken advantage of what has come to be a very excellent habit and has been recognized in many state legislatures. Blank record books have been provided for this special purpose, same as will be found in Morrison county. The farms thus named and recorded here are as follow (the numbers refer to section, township and range): "Willow Grove," September 17, 1909, was the first recorded. It was by I. H. Misfeldt, in section 13, township 127, range 31, in Elm Dale township; "Lake View," 14-132-31, Scandia Valley township, Fred M. Trogstad; "Brookside Farm," 24-129-30, Pike Creek township, Mary Brunet; "Maple Top," 8-127-30, Elm Dale township, Frank Kopka; "Bloomington Park," 33-130-31, Darling township, August Bloomquist;

"Pine Grove," 5-39-30, August Dehler; "West Pleasant Grove," 33-130-30, Darling township, Frank Rendahl; "Golden Grove," 32-130-30, Darling township, Aaron Engstrom; "Rich Park," 34-130-30, Darling township, G. E. Johnson; "Meadow Grove," 34-130-30, Charles Anderson; "Golden Park," 28-130-30, Darling township, Louis Anderson; "Park Grove," 29-130-30, Fred Nelson; "Elm Park," 28-130-30, Darling township, John Regnell; "Bloomington Grove," 23-130-30, Darling township, Ida Blomquist; "Highland Park," 2-129-30, August Anderson; "Rich Valley," 2-129-30, Oscar Anderson; "Oakdale Dairy," 36-41-32, Olof Malm; "Popple Park," 4-129-30, Abraham Knudson; "Meadow View," 13-129-30, M. M. Williams; "Blossom View," 25-130-30, Anna C. Johnson; "Evergreen Park," 3-129-30, Pike Creek township; "Prospect Grove," 34-130-30, Darling township, August Lindahl; "Elm Hult," 33-130-30, John A. Thelander, Darling township; "Oak Wood," 29-130-30, Darling township, Miss Maud Freeman; "Rosewood Grove," 34-130-30, Darling township, Emil Ohon; "The Goldfield," 4-129-30, Charles J. Nelson, Pike Creek township; "Elm Grove," 27-130-30, Darling township, Nils Emil Nelson; "Cherry Valley," 27-130-30, Darling township, Lars Johnson; "Beautiful Grove," 27-130-30, Darling township, Frank Skogberg; "Rice Lake," 19-40-31, John C. Rennie; "Oak Park," 33-130-30, Andrew Hedin; "Gottenberg Dairy," 17-129-30, Leonard Larson; "The Queensdale," 27-130-30, Mrs. Hilda Anderson, Darling township; "Pleasant View," 3-129-30, Pike Creek township, Anton Knudson; "Birchwood," 29-130-30, Charles A. Swanner, Darling township; "Streetville," 29-130-30, John V. Malm, Darling township; "Flower Grove," 29-130-30, Darling township, Tom McCarty; "Beautiful Point," 20-130-30, Axum G. Nelson; "Hillside Grove," 32-130-30, Darling township, Lars A. Peterson; "Silver Grove," 32-130-30, Darling township, Charles P. Nordstrom; "Richfield," 4-129-30, Pike Creek township, August Peterson; "Cloverdale," 14-41-31, Victor Beckman; "Highland Grove," 33-130-30, Darling township, Carl Emil Taberman; "Sobieks Palace," 4-127-30, William A. Butler; "Cottage Grove," 12-41-31, S. M. Blom; "Fair View," 11-129-30, Peter O. Melberg; "Riverside Dairy Farm," 9-41-30, Charles Beckman; "Stoney Park," 32-130-30, Darling township, Fred Cook; "Beautiful Park," 27-130-30, Darling township, John Mathers; "Platte River Valley," 30-41-30, H. Wieland; "Homewood," 9-129-30, John A. Larson; "Red Cedar," 31-131-29, Clistie A. Rudolph; "Oak Hill," 31-130-30, P. A. Holmgren; "Two Rivers Stock Farm," 3-127-30, George M. Schneider; "Sunnyside," 1-127-31, J. J. Jacobson; "Fairfield," 22-127-31, J. H. Peterson; "River View," sections 8 and

17, township 127, range 30, C. G. Mokros; "Pine Knoll," 18-127-30, N. P. Thompson; "Oakland Farm," 5-129-30, Gustof Swanson; "Lake Park," 25-132-31, Rasmus Borgstrom; "River Grove," 10-130-30, John Liljebblad, Darling township; "Elfdale," 35-130-30, John A. Schelin; "River Park," 15-130-30, August Gustafson; "Coon Lake," 31-128-31, Charles Palm; "Plainfield," 9-127-31, John Jacobson; "Waldeborg," 8-127-31, C. G. Peterson; "Arlington Hill," 9-127-31, Andrew Rydholm; "Lake Side," 6-127-31, August Anderson; "Linden Hill," 16-127-31, J. S. Borgstrom; "Hay Creek," 31-131-30, Erm Edbourg; "Spring Garden," 32-130-30, Darling township, Herman Hamon; "Shamrock and the Rose," 20-128-30, Dennis Sheedy; "Meadowlands," 5-39-32, Mary M. Kay; "Mamre," 8-127-31, John Hockammon; "Appleton," 3-127-31, C. A. Carlson; "Pleasant Home Stock Farm," 15-40-32, J. L. Metcalf; "Four Leaf Clover," Ernest Eckstrom, 9-127-31; "Evergreen," 26-40-31, Frank Boehm; "Ferndell," 14-131-30, A. B. Nichols; "Clovernook," 5-127-31, Adam Jacobson; "Spring Creek Dairy," 24-127-31, Peter Peterson; "Lindale," 9-127-31, J. P. Eckstrom; "Elm Tree," 15-127-31, C. J. Lunden; "Prospect," 10-41-30, Theodore Thielen, 10-39-30; "Orchard Grove," 17-39-30, Nick H. Mueller; "Rockfield," 19-130-29, Carl E. Peterson; "Cedar Hill," 21-127-31, Frederick Anderson; "Silver Lake," 14-131-31, Albert Kleman; "Clover Leaf Stock Farm," 36-41-32, Olof Malm; "Ash Cove," 30-129-30, Laurence Gregerson; "Pine Shade," 7-127-31, C. J. Peterson; "Jersey Home Farm," 8-131-30, Hugh Pugh; "Lakemont," 6-131-31, John H. Dubbels; "Valhalla Farm," 31-42-30, Carl L. Erickson; "Fair Oaks," 2-129-30, C. A. Matherson; "Sunny Home," 2-129-30, William Evans; "Oak Grove," 7-39-30, John L. Dehler; "Black Walnut Grove," 25-128-31, Herman C. Getzkow; "Rosendahl," 5-127-31, Alfred Holmen; "The Frederick Farm," 26-130-30, Darling township, Edward W. Frederickson; "Cedar Grove," 30-127-31, Fred W. Getzkow; "Spring Valley Home," 24-131-31, A. K. Johnson; "Spring Hill Stock," 9-132-30, B. P. Swanson; "Paradise Farm," Clara K. Fuller, 18-129-29; "Oak Dale Stock," 22-133-31, W. N. Morey; "Inland Dairy," Ed B. Martinson, 9-129-31; "Long Meadow Stock Farm," 29-42-28, H. H. Sanborn; "Clover Leaf," 17-40-32, R. L. Cochrane; "Parker-Muir," 12-136-31, George T. Parker; "Meadow Brook Stock," 33-129-31, Mrs. Lizzie Stroschein; "The O. K. Farm," 11-129-30, C. H. and A. G. Olson; "Big Pine," 10-42-32, Robert C. Tedford; "Breezy-Point-On-Lake Alexander," 32-132-31, Mrs. Lena Wheeler; "Swan Valley," 26-128-31, O. S. Swanson; "Spruce Knoll," 23-128-31, Andrew Melbeg; "Helendale," 34-132-30, Albert R. Longfellow; "Pleasant Brook," 8-39-30,

Angus D. Dehler; "Spruce Grove," 25-133-31, Peter Smedberg; "Spring Valley Dairy," 4-132-30, F. L. Swanson, Rail Prairie township; "Spring Grove Stock Farm," 7-129-31, B. H. Fellbaum; "Clover Dale Stock Farm," 28-133-31, John Berglund; "Little Elk," 6-129-29, Mary A. Kemp; "Happy Hollow," 24-128-30, Peter L. Lempke; "Meadow Lawn Stock Farm," 10-39-32, George M. Reidnet; "Alfalfa Stock Farm," 29-128-30, Peter J. Gregeresen; "Granite City Stock," 21-41-29, Peter J. Gan; "North Star," 23-42-31, Zexn Nielsen; "Fletcher Creek," 6-41-31, Louis Valley; "Spruce Grove Dairy and Stock Farm," 4-41-31, M. Olson; "Meadow Brook," 9-130-30, E. G. C. Amy; "Triplet Spring," 18-129-31, O. R. Koenig.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### BANKS AND BANKING.

The financial history of Morrison county has been a creditable one, on the whole, and the banks of this county have ever stood as conservators of the business interests of their respective communities. The following is a brief record of the banks, past and present, in Morrison county:

The First National Bank of Little Falls was organized in 1888, and the latest state bank directory gives the officers and other items concerning its history as follows: Capital, \$50,000; surplus, \$20,000; deposits, \$600,000. Officers: A. R. Davidson, president; J. K. Martin, cashier. It is one of the solid financial institutions of central Minnesota. It has its own bank building, fifty by one hundred feet in size, a two-story cream brick building, with basement. It is steam heated and lighted by electricity and cost \$50,000.

The Merchants State Bank of Little Falls was organized in 1902, by G. F. Kirscher, who was its president; H. A. Warner, cashier, and Jerome McCusker, vice-president. Today the officers are, G. F. Kirscher, president; Joseph Moeglin, cashier, and Charles Sprandel, vice-president. The first and present capital is \$50,000. The present surplus and undivided profits are \$16,500. A general banking business is transacted. The recent report gives the amount of deposits to be \$400,000. The bank's charter is dated October, 1902. This is a safe and well-conducted banking house, whose business has materially increased from the very opening month.

The German-American National Bank of Little Falls was organized in December, 1891, by Harold Thorson and James D. Anderson, succeeding the old Morrison County Bank. That bank was a private concern owned by J. D. Maxwell, and was the first to do banking business in the county. This bank finally quit and its regular successor was the German-American bank, which was established about ten years later than the first attempt at banking here. The first officers of this bank were: Harold Thorson, president; C. A. Weyerhauser, vice-president; J. D. Anderson, cashier; S. A. Smerts, assistant cashier. The original and present capital is \$50,000; present sur-

plus and undivided profits, \$25,000; deposits, \$800,000. A general banking business is carried on after modern methods. The present (1915) officers are: C. A. Weyerhauser, president; J. W. Berg and John Wetzell, vice-presidents; E. J. Richie, cashier; N. J. Peterson, assistant cashier. This banking house has always been on the same lot it now occupies, on Broadway and First street in the center of the city. The June, 1915, statement issued gives the liabilities and resources at \$918,035.37 and general deposits amounting to \$291,403.37. It stands for all that is safe and sound in Minnesota banking circles.

The German State Bank of Pierz was organized in 1902 by A. R. Davidson, of Little Falls, and Col. A. D. Davidson, of Duluth. It was chartered in 1908. Its first and present capital is \$10,000. The first officers were: A. D. Davidson, president; H. R. Davidson, vice-president; L. O. Kirby, cashier. Its present officers are: A. R. Davidson, president; P. A. Hartman, vice-president; A. P. Stoll, cashier; R. M. Stoll, assistant cashier.

The deposits in August, 1915, were \$180,000 and the surplus at that date was \$2,000. A general banking business is transacted by this concern, which has the confidence of the entire community. A. R. Davidson is a man of well-known banking ability and financial strength. A. P. Stoll became associated with this bank in 1903, since which time he has been ever at his desk, filling well the position he holds. The June statement of this bank in 1915 shows liabilities and resources amounting to \$200,668.82.

The First National Bank of Genola (formerly called New Pierz) was organized January 1, 1912, by G. F. Kirscher, president; Charles Sprandel, vice-president; John Schmolke, Herman J. Vierk, and N. P. Fichtinger, cashier. The capital is \$10,000; the present surplus and profits are \$2,000; recent statements show deposits amounting to \$60,000. Besides a general banking business, this concern also does an extensive real estate and insurance business. The date of this bank's charter was December 28, 1911. It occupies a modern, up-to-date bank building, erected in 1911. The present officers are: G. F. Kirscher, president; Simon P. Brick, vice-president; Otto J. Brick, cashier; U. M. Bussen, assistant cashier.

The Farmers State Bank of Upsala, was organized May 11, 1914, hence is a new concern in banking circles of Minnesota. It was formed by J. W. Falk, J. S. Borgstrom, A. M. Borgstrom, Gust Lindgren and P. Viehouser, with a capital of \$10,000, the same as it carries today. Its original officers were: J. W. Falk, president; J. S. Borgstrom, vice-president; Gust Lindgren, cashier; A. M. Borgstrom, assistant cashier. The present cashier is

A. M. Borgstrom. The undivided profits in June, 1915, were \$519.25; recent amount on deposit was \$58,566.77. A general banking business is transacted in this bank. On June 23, 1915, a statement was published showing the liabilities and resources to have been \$58,556. Considering the size of the village, this statement is a wonderful showing to have made in so brief a time after establishing a bank.

The Randall State Bank, at the village of Randall, was established on April 7, 1908, by S. C. Cochran, P. F. Hosch, R. Drysdale, B. B. Bates and C. E. Chapman. The first capital stock was same as today, \$10,000; the surplus is \$4,500; deposits are \$70,000. A general commercial banking business is transacted. The original officers were: S. C. Cochran, president; R. Drysdale, vice-president; C. E. Chapman, cashier; S. C. Cochran, B. B. Bates, R. Drysdale, P. F. Hosch, C. E. Chapman, directors. At first this bank occupied a small brick building, which was torn down to make room for the present handsome bank structure on lot 12. It is a pressed brick, erected in 1911, at a cost of \$3,500. The vault and all connected with the institution are safe and modern. The officers at present are: W. E. Parker, president; Matti Karhula, vice-president; C. E. Chapman, cashier; Mrs. C. E. Chapman, assistant cashier; W. E. Parker, Matt Karhula, H. L. Decker, Isaac Hazelett, F. B. Coon, J. J. Meyers and C. E. Chapman, directors. A recent statement shows the resources and liabilities of this excellent institution to be \$83,466.87.

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Royalton was organized in November, 1911, by R. K. Carnes, J. H. Russell, A. A. Fitch, A. R. Davidson and J. K. Martin, with a capital stock of \$15,000, same as is carried today. The present surplus and undivided profits are \$1,600. The deposits in the month of July were \$61,000. General commercial banking is carried on by this concern. The first officers were:: A. R. Davidson, president; J. K. Martin, vice-president; A. A. Fitch, cashier. Those serving today (1915) are: August Plachta, president; R. Y. Watson, vice-president; A. A. Fitch, cashier. They occupy a fine brick block, erected in 1901. The June statement of this bank shows it had resources and liabilities amounting to \$82,320.97, with loans and discounts amounting to \$72,198.58; total cash assets, \$7,315.36. This is looked upon as among the well-managed financial institutions of Morrison county.

The First National Bank of Royalton is a strong financial institution, with S. Henenlotter as its president and Charles R. Rhoda, cashier. In August, 1915, the amount on deposit was \$160,000. The bank's capital is \$25,000 paid-up stock.

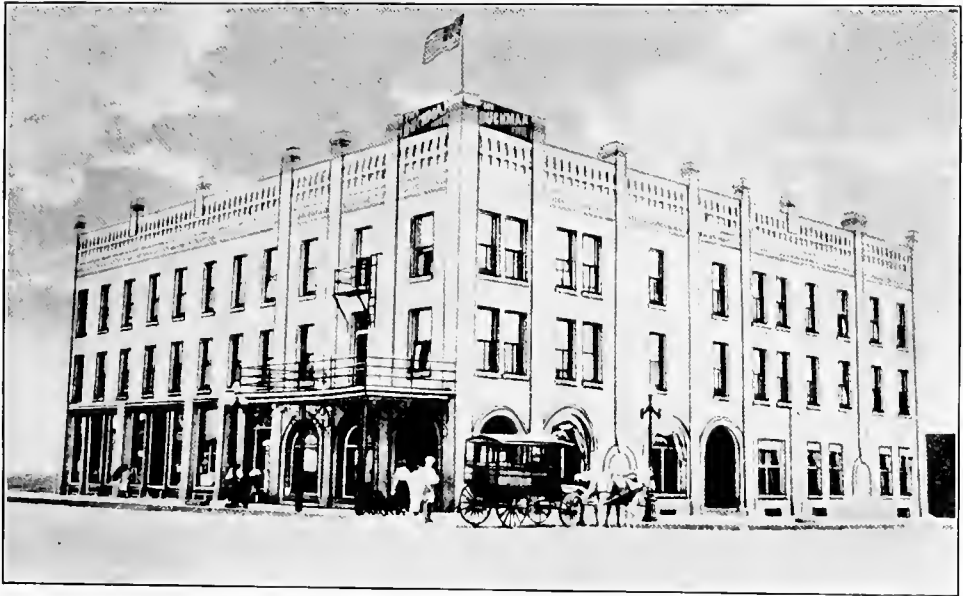
At Swanville there are now two banks, the First State Bank and the People's State Bank. The former is now being converted into a national bank. W. E. Lee, of Long Prairie, is president of the First State Bank and O. H. Kolhe, cashier.

The First National Bank, at Motley, was established and chartered as bank No. 7764, in 1905, with first officers as follows: Isaac Hazlett, president; William A. Lancaster, vice-president; D. L. Case, cashier; S. W. Jacobs, assistant cashier. The capital stock was then, as today, \$25,000, but there is now a surplus of \$5,000. The 1915 officers of this bank are: Isaac Hazlett, president; D. L. Case, vice-president; S. W. Jacobs, cashier; R. L. Benedict, assistant cashier. The directors of this concern are the above-named officers, together with Mr. Parker. The bank building was erected in 1903, on Main street, at a cost of \$4,500, including lot. In July, 1915, the statement made shows that the bank had resources and liabilities amounting to \$155,720.95; deposits, \$97,823.81; loans and discounts, \$93,154.49. In 1906 burglars drilled through the outer walls of the vault and secured \$65 in cash found in a common till, but left before they blew up the safe, which had been planned, as fuses were found about the place in the morning. This bank succeeded a private bank conducted by Messrs. Hazlett and L. D. Chase, who started in banking here in 1902.

The Morrison County State Bank, of Bowlus, was established on March 27, 1911, by Vincent Schwientek, Aubrey A. Read, M. K. Knauff and John Barton. Its charter was dated May 22, 1911; its first and present capital is \$12,000. Its first officers were: John A. Barton, president; Vincent Schwientek, vice-president; Arthur Erickson, cashier. The same officers still hold over, except that the cashier is Albert A. Barton, who has as his assistant, G. A. Schaefer. The surplus in August, 1915, was \$1,000. Recent reports show its deposits to be \$67,000. The bank building was erected in the spring of 1911 and is valued at \$6,700. This institution meets with public favor and is just what was needed in the community in which it is located.

#### LITTLE FALLS BANK DEPOSITS.

In 1913, the *Minneapolis Journal* printed the following: "At Little Falls, the bank deposits were as follow: Based upon its population, Little Falls leads all other cities in the state, as shown by the deposits of the First National Bank, Merchants State Bank and German-American National Bank, of \$1,641,757.97. This proves conclusively that the Little Falls banks have



BUCKMAN HOTEL, LITTLE FALLS



plenty of idle capital, and that its people per capita rank equal in wealth to any in the Northwest."

#### MODERN METHODS.

It may seem surprising to some to note the number of banks in the various towns of both this and Todd county, as compared to other counties, even in districts where agriculture and manufacturing are carried on to a much greater extent than they are in these two counties. This was not so much the case a few years ago, but the introduction of modern methods of farm life, especially the creamery industry, which sprang up here less than twenty years ago, has advanced the cash receipts of the farms and put many in good financial circumstances, who in years gone by were "poor farmers" in several senses of the term. The "cream and milk checks" have enriched these two counties to a wonderful extent in the last ten years. Again, farmers and townspeople, too, have come to understand that the safest manner to proceed to accumulate is to start a bank account. The modern banking laws of both Minnesota and the general government have been so changed that the average every-day citizen, who never felt safe in making deposits in small banks, has come to believe that these institutions are the safest place to deposit their earnings and profits, hence the bank accounts have rapidly increased. These banks allow all the interest that the times will permit of and the patrons, knowing that they are dealing with excellent business men, who are also watched by careful bank inspectors, feel that they are safe in making deposits.

## CHAPTER IX.

### SCHOOLS OF MORRISON COUNTY.

That the matter of education has not been neglected in Morrison county, will be seen by the early schools, both private and public and the later institutions, which have from time to time been improved to meet the requirements of the times and changes in educational methods.

It was written in the state history, covering the upper Mississippi valley, published in 1881, as follows: "Of the thirty-eight schools in Morrison county, the leading one is the independent school of Little Falls. Three teachers are employed in this school, and the number enrolled is one hundred and seventy-three, nearly one-seventh of the enrollment of the entire county. The school property in the village is now valued at three thousand two hundred dollars."

The first public school taught within the limits of this county was at the village of Little Falls, in the summer of 1855, by Miss Ellen Nichols. In Two Rivers township, the first school was taught in the dwelling of John Betzoldt, in the fall of 1866, the next was in a log school house in section 20.

Really, the first school of any sort taught in Morrison county was at Belle Prairie, by Rev. Frederick Ayer, in 1849, but that was for Indian children largely, though some whites attended it. Mrs. Ayer was among its first instructors. The first school district was organized in 1855, and a school was held that year in the old Mission building, with Miss Cunningham as teacher. A school house was erected near this spot in 1865, and a larger one ten years later. In 1880 there were several schools within Belle Prairie.

In Bellevue township, the first school was taught at the house of Jasper Hill, in section 22, in 1857. Mrs. Hill was the teacher. A small frame school house was erected in 1858 in section 21, and in 1870 another was built in section 27. There were two districts and buildings in the township in 1882.

The first school taught in Pierz township was in 1868, by Frank Konen, in a church then just completed. A school district was ordered set off that



year and a building erected in 1870. District 19 was organized and a school house erected in 1877. District 28 was formed in 1880. A good frame house was built previously, and in it the first school there was taught.

In Green Prairie, the first school was taught by Miss Mary Denny in the summer of 1867. It was in a rude frame building, built by subscription, in section 17. It served all purposes, however, until a better building was erected in 1880.

In Elmdale, the first school was taught by Miss Amanda Roach, later Mrs. Henry Coe, of Swan River, in 1869. In 1880 the township had two schools in operation.

In Buckman township, the first school was taught by Mrs. Randall, in 1874. In 1881 there were two school houses in this township.

The first school in what was once styled Oakwood township, was taught in 1877, in J. Soudie's house. The next year a school house was erected in the southwest corner of section 29.

In Parker township, as then constituted, the first school was held in the spring of 1881, when a school district was organized. It was in section 22 and the school was taught by Mrs. Aaron Boyce.

At Motley, in 1909, there was erected a two-story brick school building at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. The district was bonded for this for fifteen years, the bonds drawing four per cent per annum.

#### ORGANIZATION OF DISTRICTS.

In the summer of 1915 there were one hundred and thirty-nine school districts in Morrison county. These school districts were organized as follows: District No. 1, in 1855, in township 41, range 32. Between 1856 and 1861 districts Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 were organized, and district No. 6 in 1861. The remainder of these districts were organized by years as follows: No. 7, 1899; No. 8, 1881; No. 9, 1870; No. 10, 1870; No. 11, 1870; No. 12, 1868; No. 13, 1892; No. 14, 1877; No. 15, 1869; No. 16, 1874; No. 17, 1881; No. 18, 1877; No. 19, 1886; No. 20, 1884; No. 21, 1903; No. 22, 1878; No. 23, 1878; No. 24, 1878; No. 25, 1879; No. 26, 1879; No. 27, 1879; No. 28, 1880; No. 29, 1880; No. 30, 1880; No. 31, 1880; No. 32, 1880; No. 33, 1880; No. 34, 1881; No. 35, 1881; No. 36, 1881; No. 37, 1881; No. 38, 1881; No. 39, 1881; No. 40, 1881; No. 41, 1882; No. 42, 1883; No. 43, 1884; No. 44, 1885; No. 45, 1885; No. 46, 1886; No. 47, 1886; No. 48, 1887; No. 49, 1887; No. 50, 1887; No. 51, 1887; No. 52,

1887; No. 53, 1887; No. 54, 1887; No. 55, 1888; No. 56, 1889; No. 57, 1890; No. 58, 1890; No. 59, 1890; No. 60, 1890; No. 61, 1890; No. 62, 1890; No. 63, 1890; No. 64, 1892; No. 65, 1892; No. 66, 1892; No. 67, 1915; No. 68, 1892; No. 69, 1892; No. 70, 1893; No. 71, 1900; No. 72, 1894; No. 73, 1893; No. 74, 1894; No. 75, 1894; No. 76, 1894; No. 77, 1894; No. 78, 1895; No. 79, 1895; No. 80, 1895; No. 81, 1895; No. 82, 1896; No. 83, 1897; No. 84, 1897; No. 85, 1897; No. 86, 1897; No. 87, 1898; No. 88, 1898; No. 89, 1898; No. 90, 1898; No. 91, 1891; No. 92, 1899; No. 93, 1899; No. 94, 1899; No. 95, 1899; No. 96, 1899; No. 97, 1899; No. 98, 1899; No. 99, 100; No. 100, 1900; No. 101, 1900; No. 102, 1900; No. 103, 1900; No. 104, 1901; No. 105, 1901; No. 106, 1901; No. 107, 1901; No. 108, 1902; No. 109, 1902; No. 110, 1902; No. 111, 1902; No. 112, 1903; No. 113, 1903; No. 114, 1903; No. 115, 1903; No. 116, 1903; No. 117, 1904; No. 118, 1904; No. 119, 1905; No. 120, 1905; No. 121, 1906; No. 122, 1906; No. 123, 1907; No. 124, 1908; No. 125, 1908; No. 126, 1908; No. 127, 1909; No. 128, 1909; No. 129, 1909; No. 130, 1909; No. 131, 1910; No. 132, 1910; No. 133, 1910; No. 134, 1910; No. 135, 1911; No. 136, 1911; No. 137, 1911; No. 138, 1914; No. 139, 1914.

#### BUILDINGS.

In 1915 there were one hundred and fifty-one school houses in the county—one hundred and twelve frame buildings, thirty-five brick, two cement; and two log houses, sided over and plastered inside after a modern fashion.

#### TEACHERS.

There are now 191 female teachers and 21 males. The average wages paid to women is \$53 per month and for men \$88. Of these teachers, there are seventy-seven graduates of normal schools and fifteen college graduates.

#### PUPILS.

The last enrollment of the county shows 6,259 pupils. Of these there are 3,079 girls and 3,180 boys. The daily average attendance is 128 days per pupil; cost per pupil in rural schools, \$20.04; of village schools, \$34.82; average daily attendance in county entire territory, 4,367; total attendance in days, 742,436.

## EXPENSES AND VALUATION.

The total amount expended for all public schools in the county in 1914 was \$153,425.82. The total value of all school property in the county in 1914 is \$387,167. Number of school libraries, 124. Apparatus value at \$52,985.

## MODERN METHODS.

Here in Morrison county, under the present county school superintendent's wise administration, modern methods are obtaining in all the schools under his charge. This was one, if not the first, of the counties in the state to require the study of agriculture in the schools for completion in the eighth-grade rural schools. This was first attempted in 1907; also sewing and other industrial work are carried on, having first been introduced in 1911, by County Superintendent Barnes, who is working along most approved methods and logical lines to bring the standard of the rural schools up to that of the village and graded schools of the larger corporations.

In 1914 elementary bookkeeping and farm accounts were introduced in all of the Morrison county rural schools, while virtually the same is obtained in the high-school course in towns and villages. It is, indeed, wonderful what has been accomplished in this matter during the short period it has been in practice in the schools of the county. It is said that the "old folks" are taking a hint and procuring account books in which they are trying to keep an account of the receipts and expenditures of the farm.

## SPECIAL STATE AID.

Wisely, the state of Minnesota has adopted the rule of paying a premium on good school houses and care for school house property, in that they allow the districts having certain improvements of a more recent origin, such as proper water-closets, outbuildings of other kinds, shade trees, improved maps, charts, globes, etc., together with small and larger up-to-date dictionaries for the use of the pupils, a certain sum from the state school funds, which is reducing the tax levies in many of Morrison county's school districts. For example, last year the amount paid back to these districts, where the requirements were lived up to, was the handsome sum of \$13,975.

All in all, it may be truthfully said that the citizens of Morrison county have no need to be ashamed in comparing their public schools with those of

other sections of the commonwealth. The work of the schools is annually brought before the general public through the attendance of the school children on the county agricultural fair. Here the wisdom of teaching agriculture and domestic science, etc., is brought vividly to mind.

#### LITTLE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL.

It is doubtful whether any county in Minnesota has a superior high school to that of Little Falls. The home of this school is modern in every particular. It was first occupied on January 1, 1914. It has a frontage of one hundred and sixty-four feet and is one hundred feet deep, three stories in height, above the ground floor. The cost of this structure was in excess of ninety-thousand dollars. It is constructed of sand-mould brick, trimmed with that celebrated Bedford (Indiana) stone. Its architecture is a type of modified Gothic with English origin. Sanitary drinking fountains are provided here and there in the various rooms and halls. It is beautifully lighted by electricity, heated by the Johnson system, regulating the atmosphere perfectly according to scientific methods. It seats three hundred and fifty pupils in its auditorium. Each item of convenience and comfort was carefully planned in the building of this monument to the good sense of the school board and taxpayers of the district.

Other school buildings are the old Central high school built at a cost of thirty-seven thousand dollars. This is a three-story, twelve-room brick structure, and is now used as a ward school. Then there is the Columbia, a six-room building; the Hawthorne and Lincoln, six-and eight-room buildings, all of which comprise the school facilities for Little Falls.

The latest published reports of these schools in Little Falls shows the following: With the opening of the school this fall (September, 1915) the enrollment in the different buildings was: High school, 255; Lincoln school, 241; Hawthorne school, 231; Columbia school, 119; Central school, 319; normal department, 22. The high school enrollment has increased about forty per cent over former years, while the enrollment in the grades has increased forty-five per cent. The normal had only nine in attendance in 1914, as against twenty-two this year.

## CHAPTER X.

### NEWSPAPERS OF MORRISON COUNTY.

The *Northern Herald* was the first newspaper published in Morrison county. It was established by Colonel French at Little Falls, who printed his first issue in the autumn of 1856. After a few months the Colonel, being disgusted with the hardships of a frontier life, sold his paper to the Little Falls Manufacturing Company. He went south with the late birds of passage and was never heard of but once afterward, and that through the pages of *Harper's Weekly*, which showed him as being in custody of a United States marshal, having been detected in some act of treason against the general government.

The next newspaper was the *Herald*, at Little Falls, by C. E. Church, who purchased the outfit left by Colonel French and the manufacturing Company and established a paper, which he continued to publish for two years, when, on account of "much strong drink," he discontinued his labors. From that date to 1874 Morrison county was without a newspaper. During that year the *Little Falls Courier* was started by A. De Lacy Wood, who operated two years and then moved to Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

The first successful editor and all-round journalist was H. C. Stivers, who began the publication of the *Little Falls Transcript* after the departure of Wood, issuing his first number on September 7, 1876. On August 16, 1880, he began the publication of a small daily paper, *The Daily Transcript*. In May, 1881, the *Transcript* was leased to J. F. Pearson, who discontinued the daily and put his whole energy into the weekly paper. From his hands the property passed, in 1889, to Wheaton M. Fuller, then a young man of nineteen years, who was born in the city of Little Falls and who had served a faithful apprenticeship under Mr. Stivers. From that time on up to the date of his death, in October, 1908, he was personally associated with and at the head of this newspaper venture. In the spring of 1892, with that rare courage and optimism which ever characterized him, and actuated by the desire to keep pace with the forward march of the city of Little Falls, Mr. Fuller was chiefly instrumental in the organization of the Transcript Pub-

lishing Company, whose object was, in addition to continuing the publication of the *Weekly Transcript*, to launch the *Daily Transcript*, the first copy of which appeared on April of the year specified. Associated with Mr. Fuller in the newly-formed company were several representative citizens of Morrison county and one from outside the county. The names and addresses of all incorporators were, W. M. Fuller, A. R. Davidson, M. M. Williams, Edmund Rothwell, Drew Musser and C. A. Lindbergh, all of Little Falls; C. B. Buckman, of Buckman, Morrison county, and John A. Berkey, of St. Paul, Minnesota. The first officers of the company were John A. Berkey, president; C. A. Lindbergh, vice-president; W. M. Fuller, secretary and treasurer. The last-named continued in control of the two publications as editor and majority stockholder. Later on, beginning in 1908, changes in stockholdings were effected from time to time until at present all the stock of the Transcript Publishing Company, other than a few minor holdings, is owned by Mrs. Clara Kingsley Fuller, widow of W. M. Fuller, and Ed. M. LaFond, the first-named being editor of the two *Transcript* editions and the last-named being the business manager of the company. Officially, Mrs. Fuller is president of the company and Mr. LaFond, treasurer.

From the office of the Transcript Publishing Company, located on East Broadway, Little Falls, two newspaper editions are issued, a daily edition, published every week-day afternoon under the name of *The Little Falls Daily Transcript*, and a weekly edition issued every Friday, *The Little Falls Weekly Transcript*. Politically, these newspapers are Republican, but always progressive. The motto of the company is and always has been: "Print the news when it is news." In size and form, the *Daily Transcript* is a seven-column quarto and the *Weekly Transcript*, a six-column folio. The two editions of the *Transcript* circulate extensively throughout the city of Little Falls and Morrison county. The daily is delivered by the company's efficient carrier service about the city near six o'clock in the evening and both daily and weekly editions reach rural patrons, by means of good postal service, to nearly all county subscribers by noon of the day following publication. Both the daily and weekly have valuable subscription lists and a large exchange roll. A manufacturing department is run in connection with the newspaper plant and it is the claim of the Transcript Publishing Company that it maintains the "biggest little print shop in the state." In this department the turning out of good work with scrupulous attention and care to details and the prompt delivery of all orders entered against the department are firmly insisted upon. Throughout the Transcript Publishing Company's

plant will be found only the most modern equipment, the motive power for all machinery used being electricity. An automobile devoted entirely to soliciting and delivery work throughout Morrison county is the latest addition to its equipment. Through the company's care and foresight in safeguarding its employes by properly protecting all machinery, a serious accident has never occurred in the history of the plant and a fire is a thing unknown. A minimum force at the Transcript Publishing Company's plant is eighteen, of whom six are employed in the daily carrier service. In busy times during the year the number of employes is even larger. When H. C. Stivers founded the *Little Falls Weekly Transcript* in 1875 he demonstrated his faith in the future of the then small village of Little Falls.

The *Little Falls Herald* was established in March, 1889, by Seal & Cross. It changed owners as follows, down to its present ownership: Seal & Workman, W. H. H. Workman, Haines & Stone, the Little Falls Printing Company, under three different managements, until a majority of the stock was purchased by Stephen C., Charles E. and Peter J. Vasaly in August, 1895, the style of the corporation being a little later changed to the Herald Printing Company. At present (1915) the stock is all owned by Peter J., Stephen C. and L. F. Vasaly, with Stephen C. Vasaly as president, L. F. Vasaly, vice-president, and Peter J. Vasaly, editor and manager.

The *Herald* has a large circulation, mostly in Morrison and adjoining counties. Politically, it is a Democratic paper of no uncertain sound. It is an eight-page, six-column, all-home-print journal, of general and local news. The equipment employed in running this publication includes, with the large jobbing department, a linotype, two-revolution seven-column four-page Potter newspaper press, pony cylinder job press, Colt's Armory job press, Chandler & Price Gordon press, power paper-cutter, perforator, stapler, punching machine, numbering machine, etc.

The office is operated in a building owned by the stockholders of the corporation and is one of the finest offices for executing all kinds of printing to be found in the county. The *Herald* is now in its twenty-sixth year of issue.

The *Little Falls Sun* was established in September, 1882, by the Sun Publishing Company. Its eventful career was marked with numerous changes in owners and editors. The chain runs about thus: First by the Sun Publishing Company; then A. F. Storey; C. D. Auyer, who conducted it till November, 1886, when it suspended and, in the spring of 1887, it was sold to the proprietor of the *Transcript*, W. M. Fuller. Politically, it always stood out clearly for Democracy. It was started by use of a Washington

hand-press, but one day its part owner, Cyrus D. Auyer, determined no longer to pull the lever of that ancient relic of the art preservative, and ordered a new press unbeknown to the company; but all ended well, for the partners all agreed after a time that it was money well expended. The old press was traded in for part payment on the new press.

The circulation of the *Sun* reached about seven hundred and was an influence in the county in which it was published. Auyer made the paper what it was by his skill and energy as well as brain power. He switched from an undesirable partnership over to a new publication, the *Morrison County Democrat*.

The *Morrison County Democrat* was established in September, 1886, by C. D. Auyer, who conducted it until 1908, when he sold to Owen Konchal and John Hoblett. It was suspended in 1911 and the material with which it had been printed was sold to the owners of the *Little Falls Herald*, who purchased the "good will" also. It was a six-column quarto of the eight-page type. Its subscription rate was one dollar per year. Politically, it was a Democratic organ of no uncertain sound. It succeeded the *Sun* and was run on a Campbell's book-job press. It always occupied leased office rooms and had many changes in its day. First it was published on Broadway, then moved from the south to the north side, where now stands the Candy Kitchen store; third, it was on First street and was housed at other points, finally had quarters under the First National Bank. For a time it was in the old court house building, then removed to the Merchants State Bank building.

The *Pierz Journal*, of Pierz, was established July 1, 1909, by H. C. Bailey; later it was owned and edited by the present proprietor, E. H. Kerkhoff. It is an independent newspaper, printed in a building owned by the editor and owner, who does his press work on one large press and his job work on a jobber, and also has a modern paper-cutter. The *Journal* is a seven-column, four-page sheet. The power employed to run his machinery is electricity. It is a newsy local paper with all that tends to aid the betterment of the community. Indeed, it may be stated that Mr. Kerkhoff is a "live wire" at newspaper making.

The *Swanville News*, located at the village of Swanville, was founded in the autumn of 1899, by A. J. Hunt. He sold to Perry Stith, and he in turn to A. Frost, who sold to C. P. Eastman. Eastman moved the plant to Pequot six years ago—1909. Upon the removal to Pequot the Swanville Publishing Company was organized, consisting of William Seims, J. J. McRae, Sr., and B. B. Cox. This company purchased a new outfit and has continued the publication of the paper. The present form and size is an



eight page, six column paper, printed on a hand-press. The subscription rate is one dollar per year. Politically, it is an independent paper. It circulates in Morrison and Todd counties mostly. The present publisher is R. N. Rhines.

*The Royalton Banner*, located at the village of Royalton, was established in January, 1887, by parties now unknown to the present management of the paper. The files were taken away from the place by Mr. Swanson, when he removed to California. It succeeded the *Royalton Record*, which had been established in 1885. The present form of the paper is a six-column octavo, run on an electrically-propelled press. It circulates mostly in southern Morrison county, and its subscription price is one dollar per year. Politically, it is progressive Republican. It is occupying a leased building.

The *Motley Mercury* was established at Motley on September 1, 1901, by E. S. Holman, who sold to the present owner, E. G. Haymaker, on September 1, 1906. It is independent in its political bearings; circulates in Morrison, Todd and Cass counties largely; subscription rate is one dollar per year. The office building was erected by the present owner in 1912. The paper is printed as a five-column sheet of the quarto form. The presses employed in this office are the Vaughn Acme and a ten-by-fifteen Gordon jobber. A thirty-inch paper cutter adds to the efficiency of the excellent job department attached to the newspaper; also a power stapling machine. The editor of this paper is the present postmaster at Motley and is a good local and editorial writer. As a booster for village, county and state, Mr. Haymaker has few equals.

## CHAPTER XI.

### CHURCHES IN MORRISON COUNTY.

The early settlers of Morrison county, whose primary object was, of course, the creation of homes and the acquisition of material wealth, nevertheless realized the obligation resting upon them of caring for the spiritual and moral interests of the people. They early evinced a healthy interest in the organization and perpetuation of church organizations. As an historical fact, the Catholic and Methodist Episcopal churches were the pioneers in the religious activities of Morrison county.

### CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY.

The Church of the Holy Family, at Belle Prairie, Morrison county, is the oldest, except the Catholic church in Crow Wing county, of any in all northern Minnesota. It has a record dating back to 1838, when that beloved bishop, Father Lafleche, of Three Rivers, Michigan, during his tour throughout the Northwest, stopped in the vicinity of Belle Prairie, this county, and established a mission among the scattered Catholic pioneers. Not long afterward a log building was erected for church purposes. This stood on the site of the present Catholic cemetery at Belle Prairie. It was called Lacroix at that time. The priests who dared the privations and hardships of those early times, together with those of recent years, include the following, in about the order here given: Father Pierz (for whom the township and village of Pierz were named) came to the field in 1852 and remained faithful to his sacred trust until 1876; other priests, however, were here as supplies for a short time during these eventful years in the history of the church. Then came Father Buh (for whom Buh township was named); then Father J. Trobec, who became bishop at St. Cloud, and had previously been pastor of one of the Minneapolis churches; he was bishop at St. Cloud from September, 1897, to 1915, when, on account of age and infirmities, he resigned his position as bishop. Next came Father L. Tomazin, Father John Pavlin, Joseph Vill, O. S. B., and Father Chandonet. The last named was later made chaplain of the Sisters school at Paron, Minnesota. Following him

came Father Lemay, who built the first convent at Belle Prairie for the Franciscan Sisters. In 1882 came, as priest, C. A. S. de Carrufen, succeeded by Father Jouax, now residing in Rome. The next to serve at Belle Prairie was Father Garraud, who died in 1913, and who was a professor in an Austrian province. Next was Father M. Barras, who served faithfully for a period of eight years. Father Gouin served from 1892 to January 7, 1895, and was followed by Father L. J. Fournier, who continued from April, 1895, to April, 1896, and was followed by Father Jouax, from October, 1896, to June, 1902. Then came Father Garraud, who continued until 1906 and gave way to Father Barras, whose term here was from January, 1907, to 1915. The present faithful and vigorous worker, Rev. Father A. Beyne, came in April, 1915, and is doing the work and performing well the duties of pastor of this church and congregation. At present there are about ninety families in this congregation. The parish covers all the northwest part of Morrison county, including that at Gravelville.

After the log chapel erected about 1855, had served its mission as a meeting house for the devout followers of the pioneer Catholic church at Belle Prairie (the first services having been held at the house of Anton Bisson), Father Pierz held mass in 1853 at that house, and served faithfully in the offices of priest. Father Buh was first to preside in the little chapel built in 1855 and in 1877 a neat chapel was erected, being dedicated on October 10, 1880. At the last date mentioned, Father Fortier was in charge. The church building is of solid cement work; its walls show excellent workmanship and the interior of the building has long been noted for its fine furnishings. In recent years modern equipments have been added. The church property now includes thirty-six acres of fine land, on which are located the convent, church and cemetery. Aside from the convent building, the church property is estimated to be worth about fifteen thousand dollars. About ten years ago, a new parsonage was provided under the pastorate of Father Garraud.

Another priest whose name should never be forgotten in the work accomplished at Belle Prairie was Father D. Laurentius Zntischrvedze, who was born in Austria at the Apostolic mission. He was drowned in crossing Red lake, Minnesota, and was buried at St. Francis cemetery, Crow Wing county, by Father Pierz.

#### THE CONVENT.

Connected with the church at Belle Prairie is the convent, which was established here many years ago. Its first building was a frame structure,

which was burned about 1894, and the present fine edifice was erected from superior yellow brick in 1911. It is a three-story and basement building and is modern in all particulars. It is heated by hot water, and illuminated by electric lights, the current being obtained from the plant at Little Falls. There are eight Sisters in charge, with Mother Superior Columbia at the head. She was born in Belle Prairie more than forty-five years ago and has been associated with this work since fifteen years of age. There are now about forty-five pupils in attendance. Pupils are taught as high as the eighth grade and have music, sewing and drawing given them among other subjects.

#### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BUCKMAN.

St. Michael's Catholic church, at Buckman, was organized in 1879, and the year following they completed a church building. It was formed by Rev. Joseph Vill, O. S. B., and among the more prominent members were: Michael Loud, Joseph Mishko, August Dehler, John Dehler, Frank Keeder-the Otrembas, John Jonson, Peter Kinny and a few other families. The first church building was commenced in the fall of 1879 and completed in 1880. Owing to the steady growth of the congregation, in 1902 it was found necessary to erect a new, larger and more modern house of worship. The church property is now valued at forty-five thousand dollars. In connection with this congregation, there is now a parochial school building, seating one hundred and fifty pupils, in charge of four Sisters of St. Benedict. The following pastors have faithfully served this congregation: Revs. Joseph Vill, 1884 to 1891; Joseph Mayrhofer, 1891 to 1899; Rev. Lazee, 1899 to 1900; Nicholas Beck, 1900 to 1901; William Lange, 1901 to 1910; John B. Brender, 1910 to 1915; Rev. Michael Schier, the present pastor, who came to St. Michael's church on February 23, 1915.

#### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, LITTLE FALLS.

St. Francis Xavier (formerly San Salvador) Catholic church is situated in Little Falls, in block No. 57, Fourth street, northeast. It was organized in 1867 by Rev. Ignatius Tomazin, a Croatian priest working among the Indians with Father Buh, residing generally at Belle Prairie. Among the first membership may be recalled these: William Butler, Peter Roy, Louis Hamlin, Joseph Fournier, David Lachance, Nazaire Morin, Patrick Hayes, Thomas Hayes, Mrs. Nathan Richardson, Mrs. Joseph Lemieux (Batters)

and others. The membership of this congregation in August, 1915, was about one hundred and sixty families. The following have served as pastors: Rev. Fathers Pierz, Tomazin, Buh, Chandonnet, Richard, Carufel, Fortier and the present priest, Father Lamothe.

Of the buildings, it may be recorded that the first building owned by the Catholics of Little Falls was the former office of the Little Falls Manufacturing Company, located on First street. In 1870 they bought of Calvin A. Tuttle a frame building which had been built by the Methodists. This church was used until Christmas of 1892, when the present brick edifice was dedicated to St. Francis Xavier and was then used for the first time. This was erected under the pastorate of Rev. Arthur Lamothe, at a cost around twenty-five thousand dollars. This is one of the influential Catholic churches of Little Falls and Morrison county, and is well cared for by the present pastor, who has every qualification for leadership in Catholic circles. He is greatly beloved and honored, not alone by those of his own flock, but also by all other denominations.

#### SACRED HEART CHURCH, LITTLE FALLS.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, at Little Falls, was built on block 52, Fourth street, southeast, in 1886, before which time services were held in the court house. The congregation was organized by Rev. William Lange and prominent among the first members may be recalled, Philip Gross, Frank Ellenbecker, Donat Trettel, Peter Medved, J. J. Gross, P. J. Tomelty, P. W. Blake, William Butler, John Kerich. The present number of families in the congregation is one hundred and fifty-two.

The first house of worship was erected in 1887 of veneered brick, but in 1912 a solid brick structure was provided and an addition made costing six thousand dollars. In 1890 a veneered brick parish house was built, and in 1914 it was enlarged at a cost of two thousand dollars, by a fine solid brick addition. In 1896 a solid brick school house was erected near the church. The public high school building of Little Falls burned down in 1896 and the city schools used the Catholic school until the city school was rebuilt. The present condition of this school is good. Five Benedictine Sisters are the teachers and the number of pupils is one hundred and seventy-eight. The estimated value of the church property, including church, school, parish house and cemetery, is thirty thousand dollars.

The pastors who have faithfully cared for this congregation are, Revs.

William Lange, J. F. Buh, A. Lamothe, Aloys Raster from April, 1890, to November, 1899; William Lange until July, 1901, when came the present pastor, Rev. J. P. Altendorf, who is greatly beloved by his people and the community in general.

At first, the Catholics of Little Falls—all nationalities—worshipped in one congregation, but as the years went by the Polish and German elements separated from the mother church of the city, and had their own organization. This was the beginning of the Sacred Heart church. Then, in 1900, the Polish people separated themselves from the German portion of the congregation and built a church edifice. This separation caused quite a decrease in the Sacred Heart congregation, but it is now increasing and is a strong congregation. Thus Little Falls has three Catholic congregations, the French, the German and the Polish, all of which are flourishing.

#### ST. ADALBERT CHURCH, LITTLE FALLS.

St. Adalbert church, of Little Falls, located on Seventh street, southeast, was organized on May 28, 1900, by Rt. Rev. James Trobec, Fr. Edward Nagl, V. G., Rev. Ignatius Wypich, vice-president, Frank Zeman and Jacob Nowotny. Prominent among the original membership may be recalled Frank Zeman, Frank Sobolewicz, John Trafas, Joseph Knuth, Frank Kopacz, Frank Wyrwicki, John Marcinkiewicz, Joseph Wyrwicki and Paul Posch.

The present (1915) membership of this Catholic church is ten hundred and forty-five souls. They have a large brick edifice and good residence. The total estimated value of all church property is thirteen thousand dollars. A parochial school of the Germans is attended by children from this parish, while two hundred and twenty-one attend the public schools of the city. The pastors of this church have been as follow: Rev. John Guzdek, from April, 1901, to April, 1902; Rev. Simon Dabrowski, from April, 1902, to November, 1902; Rev. Theodore J. Rekosiak, from December, 1902, to the present time.

#### ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA CHURCH, AT BOWLUS.

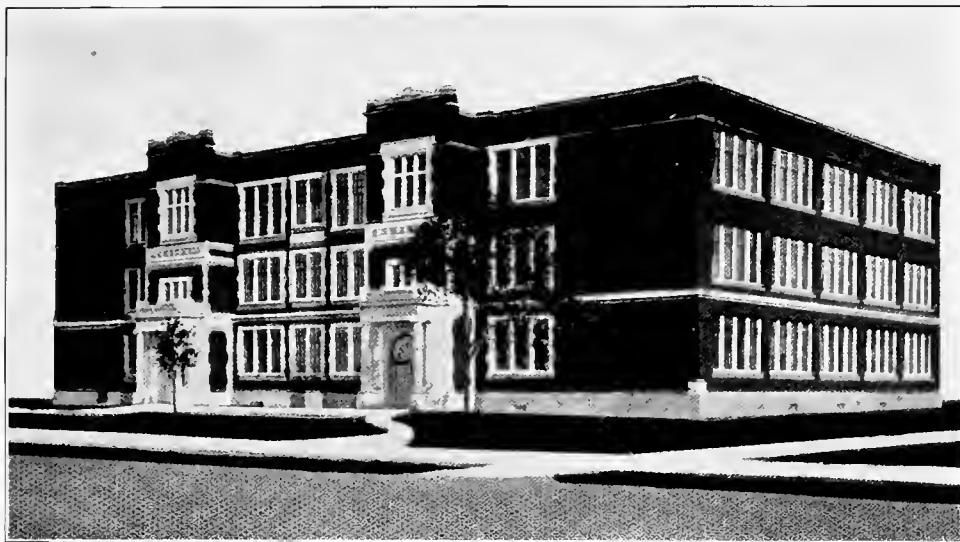
The St. Stanislaus Koska church, located in the village of Bowlus, had its origin about two years later than the village itself. The Soo railroad, through its obliging management, donated one block of land to the Catholic church, and in 1909 about seventy-five families of this faith separated themselves from the North Prairie church and decided to erect a new church in





REV. FATHER PIERZ  
After whom the town of Pierz was named

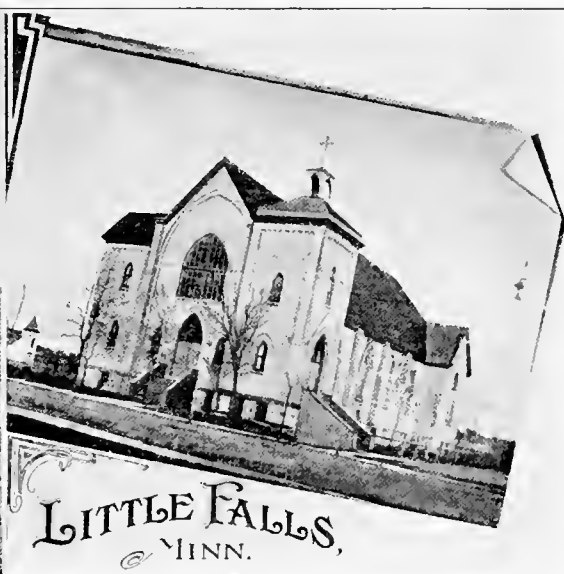




HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, LITTLE FALLS



GERMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



FRENCH CATHOLIC CHURCH



the village of Bowlus. This work was commenced in July, 1909, and the structure was completed on May 1, 1910.

The corporate name of the society is "St. Stanislaus Kostka Church." The building referred to was dedicated on May 8, 1910, and was assigned as a mission to North Prairie. From May 8, 1910, until October of that year the parish was attended from North Prairie by Rev. J. C. Janski. In October, 1910, Rev. V. Wodzka took charge of the place and one year later Rev. J. Kromolicki took his place. He resigned in two months and Rev. P. Wolnick, O. S. B., was appointed to take charge. He remained about three years, and during his administration the society erected a parish house. The present pastor, Rev. J. C. Janski, then took charge of the place. The congregation has increased to one hundred and five families. It now has a large, fine church and parish house, also a large cemetery. The total estimated value of the property held by this church is twenty-eight thousand dollars.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, PIERZ.

St. Joseph's church, at the historic village of Pierz, Morrison county, has a history dating back as far as 1865, when there were no more than five Catholic families at Rich Prairie, as the territory was then called. The spiritual needs of the first settlers were alternately ministered to by the Revs. Francis Pierz, Joseph F. Busch, Ignatius Tomazin and James Trobec until 1869. It was in the autumn of that year when the first log church, was erected by these few early pioneers, as the county hereabouts was beginning to settle up rapidly with Catholics. In 1871 the zealous Indian missionary, Rev. Francis Pierz, took up his abode as resident pastor at Rich Prairie, or Pierz (as it was later named in honor of his memory and good works), after it had been incorporated into a village. He remained there until his retirement from the active ministry, when he returned home to the land of his nativity, Austria, on September 3, 1873. There he spent the remainder of his days with the friends of his youth, there to rest from his ardent labors in the missionary cause, and died at Laibach, Austria, on January 22, 1880, in his ninety-fourth year. For thirty-eight years he had labored midst constant hardship, enduring privations among the Ottawas and Chippewas of the Northwest. Considering that all this amazing labor was done by a man fifty years of age when entering upon his labors or in his apostolic career in the Indian missionary field, and that he continued therein uninterruptedly

until his eighty-eighth year, we must conclude that his case can scarcely find a parallel in the missionary records of either ancient or modern times.

After the departure of the venerable Father Pierz for Europe, the Rev. Joseph Vill, of the Order of St. Benedict, had charge of the congregation for three months. He was succeeded by the Rev. Francis Koering, who remained pastor till March, 1878, when he, in turn, was succeeded by the Rev. Ignatius Wesseling, O. S. B., who held the pastorate till January 1, 1884. During his administration the present parochial residence was built in the year 1882. After his resignation the parish was temporarily attended by the Revs. Placidus Wingerter, Ignatius Wesseling and Joseph Vill until the appointment of Rev. Paneratins Maebren, O. S. B., who was pastor from February 23, 1884, to September 1, 1893. During his charge, on May 12, 1886, the cornerstone of the present church was laid and, on December 25, 1888, the solemn dedication of the sacred edifice took place. From that date the administration of the parish passed from the religious to the diocesan clergy altogether. Rev. Maebren, O. S. B., was succeeded by Rev. Edward J. Nagl, who remained pastor from September, 1893, to September, 1898, and under whose charge the first parochial school was erected and dedicated in 1897. His successor in office became the Rev. Joseph A. Stephen, from September, 1898, to December, 1900. The next in charge was Rev. Charles Pfeiffer, from December, 1910, to November, 1903, and he was followed by Rev. John G. Seigler. During the latter's administration of almost twelve years, the church edifice, owing to the growing needs of the congregation, was considerably enlarged by the addition of a sanctuary; also he made an excavation for a roomy winter chapel in the fall of 1909. In 1913 the church was generally repaired and beautified by decorations and frescoing. On February 10, 1914, a calamity befell the congregation, when, from an unknown cause, their parochial school burned to the ground. Owing to the united efforts of pastor and people, the present magnificent school building was erected, at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars, which, in the beauty of its architecture and modern arrangement, is "a source of pride to the whole community. Since October, 1911, the pastor has been assisted in the work, successively, by the Revs. John Fuss, from October 18, 1911, to June 19, 1913, and Victor V. Seigler, from June, 1913, to the present time.

#### HOLY CROSS CHURCH, ROYALTON.

Holy Cross Catholic church, near Royalton, Morrison county, in Two Rivers township, was organized in 1864 and incorporated in 1895. It was

formed by Revs. Pierz, Buh, Trobec and others, who were missionary priests. The present membership of this congregation is six hundred. The pastors have included Revs. E. J. Nogle, who served from 1876 to 1893; A. J. Gospodar, 1893 to 1909; J. C. Janske, 1909 to 1911; S. Suszczynski, present pastor.

The present estimated value of this church property is: Forty acres of land, valued at three thousand dollars; church, with improvements and other buildings, amounting to twenty-two thousand dollars, making a total of twenty-five thousand dollars. The first building was a log house erected free of cost by the people, in 1864; the second church was an addition to the log structure made of frame, in 1879, at a cost of about four hundred dollars; the third was a brick veneered building, forty-six by ninety-six feet in size, costing twelve thousand dollars, built in 1886 and seating five hundred people. The first parsonage was built in 1877, at a cost of eight hundred dollars and a new parsonage was erected in 1897, costing two thousand four hundred dollars—a brick veneered building. The Benedictine Sisters conducted a school from 1888 to 1913, but secular teachers are now employed by the school trustees.

This parish at first consisted of fourteen families of Germans, but in 1875 the Polish people commenced coming in and greatly added to the numbers. At one date there were one hundred and ninety families. There are at present ninety families, seventy-four Polish and sixteen German. The parish extended into several surrounding townships, including Two Rivers, Elmdale, Buckman and now there are six other churches which have owed their origin to this mother church.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

Early in the forties several Methodist families settled temporarily in and near Little Falls, and it is certain that a local Methodist preacher visited them and preached for them. The first Protestant sermon preached in Little Falls was by a Methodist minister. The society worshipped with the Congregational people for some years after the sale of their church, which Methodist building had been erected in 1857, the same year in which the first Methodist class was formed here. The society being weak and unable to meet its indebtedness, the building was mortgaged, and the debt was unpaid until 1870, when the building was sold to the Catholic people. However, long before any of these transactions occurred—about 1854—meetings were held jointly by the Methodists and Congregational people at the Indian mis-

sion established at Belle Prairie, by Rev. Frederick Ayer, missionary, who had located there about 1848 or 1849. The Methodists for a time had an interest in the missionary work of the Indian school at that point.

It was not until 1885 that the Methodists again began efforts to secure a church edifice at Little Falls, and finally the building was dedicated by Rev. Thomas McClary. Since that date the society has held regular services. Rev. M. O. Stockland, pastor for four years, 1902-06, built a new parsonage, containing nine rooms, and at present the old church is being rebuilt, under the direction of Rev. John Watson, which, when completed, will, with other church property in Little Falls, be worth fully twelve thousand dollars. The present number of communicants is one hundred and forty.

It is quite clear that Rev. A. J. Nelson was the pastor under whose care the original church was formed and the building erected in 1857, but, unfortunately, many of the valuable records of the work of this church at Little Falls have been lost or destroyed with the passing of years.

As early as 1856, at the house of J. B. Dearing, at Royalton, a Methodist church was formed, by Reverend Hoople, says Nathan Richardson, in his notes on Morrison county history, written in 1876. The present membership is seventy.

At Motley, another church was formed by this denomination about 1879, by Rev. A. S. Guerut and this is still in existence and doing good work. The 1914 conference reports show a membership of one hundred and fourteen. Besides the Methodist churches already named, there are a few small country charges in this county.

#### FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT MOTLEY.

The First Methodist Episcopal church at Motley was organized in 1882 by Rev. H. W. Troy. The charter members were as follow: Mrs. Alfred Wilson, Mary H. Ward, Mrs. M. M. Hodge, Mr. and Mrs. John McMillin, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ward. The two surviving charter members are Mrs. Samuel Ward and Mrs. Alfred Wilson.

The first meetings were in the village school house. In 1889 a church building was erected at a cost of one thousand dollars. It was a veneered brick building and is still in use. Rev. J. M. Brown was pastor when this house was erected. When it was dedicated there were only seventeen members. Today the membership is one hundred and sixty-two. The property is valued at four thousand dollars. This includes the parsonage, which cost one thousand five hundred dollars.

The church has grown rapidly since 1891, when it had sixty-one enrolled. Under pastor Rev. W. A. Conden a great revival increased the membership; again under the pastorate of Rev. George C. Fenscke, one hundred and nine were added to the church.

The pastors here have been as follow: Revs. H. W. Troy, W. J. Haner, Walton, J. M. Brown, Frank Parr, J. H. Cudlipp, E. H. Nicholson, George E. Tindall, J. D. Manley, Andrew Bond, James Clevlow, Robert P. Cummings, W. H. Robinson, W. A. Conden, Leon S. Koch, W. G. Follonsbee, M. M. S. Perry, Joseph P. Adair, Charles H. Blake, George C. Fenscke

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

The First Baptist church of Little Falls commenced holding regular services early in the year 1892. Services were held in the chapel car "Evangel," which car is a part of the missionary work of the American Baptist Publication Society, stationed at Little Falls for some time. The car was in charge of Rev. J. Malcom Sawyer, who organized the First Baptist church, located at West Fourth and Broadway streets. The organization meeting was held on August 18, and six members made up its charter. Thereafter meetings were held in one of the public halls of the town. At the second meeting fourteen members were received, making the total of twenty. These charter members were: C. W. Brown, Robert Brown, J. R. Collins, J. T. Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Craig, Mr. and Mrs. John Gray, Mrs. F. Terry, Eleanor Terry, Mrs. J. H. Burrall, O. Thoen, C. Erickson, A. Blomberg, P. Ostlund, P. E. Wickstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Frankel, Anna Wickstrom, and M. Jacobson. The present number enrolled is seventy.

This church was incorporated on November 16, 1892, and was publicly received into the fellowship of the Baptist denomination September 6, 1893. The various pastors have been as follows: Revs. W. H. Davenport, Charles Moss, R. Poole, John Festerson, W. G. Towner, A. H. Cameron, E. M. Atwood, B. Milne, J. W. Hagerty, B. R. Croft, J. H. Davies, John Selander, and the present pastor, Rev. O. F. Felth.

The present and original building was dedicated on November 8, 1895. It is a veneered brick structure, the original of which has been added to by a good-sized portion to the east, in the shape of a wing. Its present value is three thousand five hundred dollars. A Bible school is held for five weeks during the summer months and now has a membership of eighteen. This is known as the Vacation Bible School. Besides the work of this church at

Little Falls, there is a work carried on by this church at Green Prairie, once a week.

#### GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION'S CHURCH.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Zion's church, at Little Falls, was organized in 1890, by Rev. K. Reuter, with membership as follows: F. Woehlert, F. Hobz, Robert Diedrich, John Schulz, of Little Falls, and R. Kriefall, Herman Kuschel, Carl Kuschel, of Buckman; at Randall, there were August Schwanke, Emil Rebischke, Adolph Fregin, Herman Lemnitz. These constituted the members at first in each of these places, Little Falls being the parent church. The same pastors have served all and are as follows: Revs. August Kollmann, K. Reuter, A. Englert, Paul Beck and present pastor, Rev. F. J. Oehlert. There are now forty-five members and church property valued at six thousand dollars. Parochial schools are conducted in behalf of these societies.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

There are three Episcopal churches in Morrison county—one at Little Falls, one at Royalton and another at Swanville. The oldest of these churches is at Little Falls, where the church was organized on December 19, 1858, by Rev. E. S. Peake, appointed by Right Rev. J. Kemper, missionary bishop of the Northwest. The charter members were: Mrs. Catherine Janner, Mrs. Lydia Cash, Mrs. Nancy Stillwell and Mrs. Proctor. The membership in August, 1915, is one hundred and four.

The first building, in 1879, cost seven hundred dollars; it was sold in 1903 to the Swedish Methodist congregation. The present church building had its corner-stone laid on September 15, 1903, costing ten thousand dollars and was dedicated on January 24, 1904. The present church property is valued at fourteen thousand dollars.

The following have served as rectors: Rev. E. S. Peake, from date of organization until November 1, 1862, at which time he became a chaplain in the Civil War; Rev. John Elwell, December 19, 1862, to February 22, 1869; Rev. S. N. Stewart, October 22, 1869, to December 11, 1871; Rev. J. T. Chambers, December 11, 1871, to June, 1872; Rev. J. A. Gilfillan, June, 1872, to August, 1876; Rev. G. H. Davis and Herbert Root, August 14, 1876, to August 26, 1881; Rev. F. Hawley, D. D., 1881 to May, 1883, and from September, 1884 to May, 1886; Rev. J. F. Tassell, May, 1883, to



August, 1884; Rev. Lewis Birch, May 2, 1886, to September, 1887; Rev. Andrew Harper, April 5, 1888, to June 1, 1889; Rev. A. A. Joss, July 1, 1889, to June 1, 1889; Rev. William Walton, September 1, 1889, to July 20, 1902; Rev. Francis Alleyne, October 12, 1902, to May 25, 1905; Rev. R. S. Hannah, 1906, to September, 1907; Rev. George Platt, December, 1907, to 1912; Rev. A. O. Worthing, December, 1912, to December, 1914. The present edifice is among the finest in this county.

At Royalton, a Protestant Episcopal church was formed and a church edifice built in 1880. It was then attended by the rector from St. Cloud.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

There are a few small Presbyterian congregations in this county—one at Little Falls, with a good building, and one at Royalton, erected in 1880.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

At Belle Prairie, Rev. Frederick Ayer formed a Congregational church, in connection with his Indian school. The mission or school was founded in about 1849 and the church in 1854. Services were held in the Green Prairie settlement as early as 1870, by Rev. William Cutler, a Congregationalist minister, but no church was organized.

The Little Falls church of this denomination was organized on June 6, 1859, by Rev. E. Newton, F. J. Farrand and Ezra Hicks were chosen trustees. Rev. W. B. Dada succeeded Mr. Newton in 1860, remaining until the fall of 1862, when rumors of an Indian outbreak caused a sudden and final departure of the reverend gentleman. The church was then without a pastor until 1870, when the Rev. W. A. Cutler assumed the charge of this and the church at Belle Prairie, remaining until 1875. He was followed by Rev. D. W. Rosencranz in January, 1876. During the first year of his ministry here, a good church building (for those days) was erected. Rev. J. S. Hull succeeded Rev. Rosencranz in January, 1881. The membership at the date last named was thirty-seven.

The old church building is said to have been the first Protestant edifice in Little Falls and also in Morrison county. It was later sold for other uses. The present church on Fourth street was erected in 1893. A gymnasium, completely equipped, was completed in 1912 and at present a large, modern parsonage, to cost five thousand five hundred dollars, is being erected

near the church building. All Congregational church property in Little Falls is estimated at twenty-six thousand dollars valuation. The present membership is two hundred and nineteen.

The pastors since those already mentioned have been, in order, as follows: Revs. M. K. Pasco, J. S. Hull, O. O. Rundell, D. Donovan, W. Moore, F. A. Sumner, W. A. Waller, C. Billig, W. North, F. Atkinson and the present pastor, Rev. Philip Gregory.

#### OTHER CHURCHES.

At the village of Upsala are found three churches, Swedish Lutheran, Swedish Mission and Swedish Baptist churches.

At Little Falls there are the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran and the Swedish Congregational churches.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LITTLE FALLS



EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LITTLE FALLS



## CHAPTER XII.

### CIVIC SOCIETIES OF MORRISON COUNTY.

Wherever civilized men live, there are found fraternities, churches and schools. There was a time, not many decades ago, when secret societies were not in universal favor with the people, especially with the strict denominational workers of both the Catholic and Protestant religious faiths; but these ideas have become modified and today the great fraternal orders are looked upon as benefactors to the human race. In the most enlightened parts of the globe we find the greatest number of lodges and associations of men and women, all working together for one another's uplifting.

Morrison county being largely of the Roman Catholic faith, it would not be supposed that the number of secret societies here would be as great as in other communities, for Catholics, as a rule, are not in sympathy with such orders, especially outside the societies of their own congregations. However, their own denomination favors and fosters a very large society which has its secret work—that of the Knights of Columbus.

### MASONIC ORDER.

In Morrison county the first fraternal lodges to be formed was the Masonic. It was Little Falls Lodge No. 140, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, organized under dispensation in the summer of 1879, and which received its working charter in January, 1880. The charter members were eleven in number and included these officers: J. H. Rhodes, worshipful master; A. Tanner, senior warden; L. Segnor, junior warden; L. G. Worthington, secretary, and J. Root, treasurer. In 1882 the lodge had a membership of only fifteen. Year by year it has steadily increased and today it has a membership of seventy or more and is in a healthy, growing condition. The order leases a hall, as do all the civic societies of the city. There is also a chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Little Falls, and a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

## INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Royalton Lodge No. 224, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Royalton, Morrison county, was organized on November 1, 1907. The charter members included the following: M. Bouck, A. Halvorsen, George Muncy, W. A. Trask and A. W. Holliday. Its present membership is forty-one. The degrees here worked are the initiatory, first, second and third. A hall is rented. The officers in July, 1915, were: J. P. Jensen, noble grand; Andrew Thoen, vice-grand; A. C. Bouck, secretary; Charles R. Rhoda, treasurer. The following have served as presiding officers since the institution of the lodge: M. Bouck, A. C. Bouck, A. Halvorsen, A. Hingum, J. P. Jensen, H. M. Logan, C. Rosenmeer and A. M. Watson.

Swanville Lodge No. 258, at Swanville, Morrison county, was organized March 14, 1903, with twenty-two charter members, as follows: C. J. Saunders, B. B. Cox, W. H. Cox, John Stroman, J. D. Stith, S. F. Campbell, J. Pearson, C. E. Sanford, C. D. Barber, A. W. Zarnes, R. E. Moore, A. Pretzel, M. Pillen, E. D. Smith, A. J. Showen, C. A. Smith, Fred Garling, G. Stromen, D. H. Campbell, J. Perkins, H. Haskett and J. S. Borgstrom. The total membership today is sixty-one. The officers were given in August, 1915, as follows: Otto Kreusey, noble grand; Nick Treug, vice-grand; Dr. I. C. Wiltrout, secretary; J. D. Stith, financial secretary. The presiding officers have been: C. J. Saunders, B. B. Cox, W. H. Cox, John Stroman, J. D. Stith, S. F. Campbell, J. Pearson, C. E. Sanford, C. D. Barber, A. W. Zarnes, F. Kreutzer, E. Stergeon, J. Ware, A. J. Gibson and W. Anderson. A hall is leased from J. D. Stith, over his store on Main street, in the center of town. Four degrees are worked here.

Rebekah Lodge No. 126 was organized in 1906, with a membership of fifteen, but has increased to fifty-seven members.

Little Falls Lodge No. 111, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized in March, 1886, and now has a membership of eighty with elective officers as follows: J. L. Metcalf, noble grand; Alberty Eue, vice-grand; Andrew Johnson, secretary, and N. N. Bergheim, treasurer. This order meets in a leased hall, which they have occupied twelve years and sub-rent to almost all other orders in the city. Four degrees of Odd Fellowship are worked at Little Falls.

## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Morrison county has had a number of active posts of this order of Civil War soldiers, but time has made sad work with most of them. But few of the brave, daring and loyal men who went to the Southland in the days of that terrible conflict are left. There are a few posts in the county which are still keeping up their meetings, aided by the loyal spirits possessed by the ladies of the auxiliary order, the Woman's Relief Corps.

At Motley, Stannard Post No. 161 was organized on April 15, 1887, but has now only six comrades left as members. The charter members were as follows: C. H. Hodge, lieutenant Ninth Vermont Volunteers; Owens Davis, Signal Corps; H. O. Francisco, First Wisconsin Cavalry, A. J. Compton, Eighty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry; E. P. Jones, I. F. Weston, Company A, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteers; F. N. Lawhead, Company A, Third Ohio; F. A. Cliffad, Eighth Minnesota; W. H. Hardy, Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; A. N. Summer, Company A, Sixth Illinois Infantry; J. L. Critchlow, Eighty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers; A. Hull, Company E, Seventh Minnesota; James Pashee, Company A, Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Volunteers; Dillon Asher, Company F, Fortieth Wisconsin; L. Scott, Company F, Eighth Minnesota; C. Taylor, I. H. Dawers, Third Minnesota; George Lewis, Company T, Sixth Illinois Volunteers; Charles W. Seaton, First Wisconsin Infantry; A. B. Seaman, E. E. Reinachl, W. B. Senff, C. W. Baker, W. H. Wagner, S. W. Reezer, W. S. Graves, E. R. Luttley, Samuel Marten, R. W. Sipes, W. McLead, Barney Tully, Ninth Vermont Volunteers; E. H. Hunter, J. E. Davenport, Company K, Wisconsin Volunteers.

The officers of this post in the autumn of 1915 are: George Lewis, commander; Isaac F. Weston, quartermaster; R. Penfield, chaplain; C. Richardson, adjutant; E. J. Barnett, junior vice-commander; J. La Fars, senior vice-commander.

Of the Woman's Relief Corps, the quartermaster of the post writes the author that, "Corps No. 18 is made up of a very fine set of women and are doing all they can for the good of the Grand Army of the Republic and the post at Motley. They also send a good lot of fruit and other things that please the old comrades at the Minnesota Soldiers' Home."

Workman Post No. 31, Grand Army of the Republic, at Little Falls, was organized on June 8, 1883, with fifty members. The original officers were: H. B. Tuttle, commander; Jonathan Taylor, senior vice-commander;

Lyman W. Ayer, junior vice-commander; E. H. Farnham, adjutant; W. L. Dow, quartermaster; Wilson Kunney, chaplain; O. L. Clyde, officer of the day; F. Ward, officer of the guard; W. O. Hardy, surgeon; Robert Jones, sergeant major; Fordis Averill, quartermaster sergeant. This post now has a membership of thirty in good standing. The comrades meet in Maurin hall, on First street, on the first and third Saturdays of each month, at 3 P. M. The officers of Workman post in September, 1915, were as follow: James C. Burrall, commander; George W. Keeler, senior vice-commander; Paul Noe, junior vice-commander; Dura Corbin, adjutant; John J. Clark, quartermaster; John Docken, chaplain; Charles Friend, officer of the day; A. St. Antoine, officer of the guard.

The Woman's Relief Corps, of Little Falls, is a fine auxiliary to Workman post, and has about forty active members.

There are now posts at Royalton, Motley and Swanville, in this county. the Woman's Relief Corps at Swanville is now very active and strong.

Several of the fraternities in the county failed to respond to a call made for data on their local lodges. In the city of Little Falls the following societies were in working order in September, 1915: Masonic, Odd Fellows, Elks, Moose, Red Men, Modern Woodmen of America, Yeomen, Foresters, United Order of Foresters, Grand Army of the Republic, Eagles, Macca-bees, Modern Brotherhood of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen, St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and Knights of Columbus.



## CHAPTER XIII.

### BENCH AND BAR OF MORRISON COUNTY.

From members of the present bar and from notes left in scrap-book form, as the result of Hon. Nathan Richardson's thoughtfulness in 1876, the author has been able to collect the following concerning the bar of Morrison county:

The pioneer attorney was James Hall, who came to Little Falls in 1856. He practiced until 1863, when he caught the Pike's Peak fever and went to that famous spot in the Rocky mountains, where it is related he became quite wealthy from his gold mining and other operations. He returned to St. Cloud, Minnesota, and again entered the practice of his chosen profession. Again in 1871, having property interests in the vicinity of Pike's Peak, he went there and on his return trip died at Cheyenne. At the first state election he was elected as district judge, but soon thereafter resigned in favor of Hon. E. O. Hamlin.

In 1857 came William Moore, who remained at Little Falls two years, but, finding legal business "poor picking," removed to St. Cloud, where he built up a lucrative legal practice and after three or four years removed to St. Paul, where he was in practice many years. Up to 1871 there was little legal business in Little Falls or Morrison county. During that year came E. S. Smith, a young and promising attorney, full of vigor and young manhood's energy and ambition. He remained four years. He went away, but returned later and engaged in practice until his death, in about 1902. Next came W. G. Woodruff, a young attorney from Crookston. He was appointed county attorney and then became a candidate for that office, but was defeated at the polls. In 1875 he returned to his former home in Crookston and there took up his practice as a lawyer.

In 1876 there was only one lawyer in Morrison county, A. J. Clark, of Little Falls. In 1879, during the month of July, came Alfred F. Storey. In a short time he was appointed county attorney and in 1880 was a candidate for the office of probate judge and was elected. He left Little Falls sometime previous to 1887. In the eighties came D. T. Calhoun, one of the best lawyers

that ever graced the Morrison county bar. He moved to St. Cloud and died at that city about 1907 or 1908.

Hon. C. A. Lindbergh, present congressman, came to Little Falls to practice law about 1884. His record is well known and is mentioned at length elsewhere in this work. He purchased the business built up by Mr. Lamb, which left only two lawyers in the county, Lindbergh and E. S. Smith.

In March, 1887, came A. P. Blanchard. He had been admitted to the bar in Illinois, and practiced here until his death in 1910. He was a good attorney. He was in partnership in law with C. A. Lindbergh from 1904 to 1907, when Lindbergh was elected to his seat in Congress. He served twice as county attorney of Morrison county. Crawford Sheldon came here about the same date of Mr. Blanchard's coming. After two years he was elected justice of the peace; for several terms he held this office, then abandoned law and was elected county superintendent of schools, after which he retired to his excellent farm home in Belle Prairie township, where he still follows the less harassing occupation of agriculture. In the summer of 1887 came Frank Lyon, who is still engaged in legal practice at Little Falls. He has served as county attorney for a number of terms. His former home was Illinois.

It was about this date when J. H. Rhodes came to Little Falls and engaged in the drug trade in company with John Wetzell for a number of years. He possessed a large farm near Little Falls. He went to St. Cloud, read law a few months, was admitted to the Morrison county bar, in about 1889, and then was made county attorney here in place of "Roll" Worthington. He served as county attorney by election for two terms and died in 1900. He had a large rice plantation in one of the Southern states.

Hon. Nathan Richardson was admitted to the bar of this county long after he had held county office and been counted an "old settler" many years; he was not a well-read attorney, as the term now implies, but managed to transact much legal business. His admission was in 1885. Donald Trettel, born in Poland, but reared in this county, read law with Hon. C. A. Lindbergh. He was educated at the Catholic schools, had a fine education and practiced law in Little Falls until his death a few years since. At one time he was judge of probate court here. A. Grethen was in practice at Little Falls two years about 1900. As the partner of Judge Baxter, of Fergus Falls, he had received a good understanding of the law. He finally removed to Dakota and there formed a partnership with his son in the law business and was, at last accounts, still living.

E. A. Kling came from Wadena, Minnesota, in 1899 and is still in prac-

tice. He has held a term in the Minnesota Legislature and was clerk of the courts in Morrison county by appointment a few years ago. About 1900 came Don N. Cameron and Nels N. Bergheim, both graduates of the Iowa University law school. Cameron was county attorney three terms here, and both he and Mr. Bergheim are still actively engaged in their chosen profession at Little Falls.

C. Rosenmeier came from some one of the southern counties of Minnesota to Royalton about 1906, and was elected county attorney of Morrison county in 1913, being the present incumbent of that office. E. F. Shaw came here about 1891, from Baltimore, Maryland, and practiced for a time being now judge of probate court.

Louis W. Vasaly and brother, Stephen C. Vasaly, were admitted to the Morrison county bar about 1896. They were born in this county. Louis W. has served two terms in the state Legislature and been county attorney of Morrison county. The latest addition to the Morrison county bar is A. H. Vernon, from St. Paul, who arrived here in 1910. He has been city attorney several terms.

Last, but not least, in the honorable role of attorneys in Little Falls, is E. P. Adams, to whom we are indebted for many points in this list of lawyers in Morrison county. He came here in the month of April, 1887, from Illinois, in which state he was reared. He was educated at the University and Law School, graduating from the former in 1875 and from the latter in 1878. He has practiced alone, except from 1889 to 1892, when he was the partner of Hon. C. A. Lindbergh. He has held the office of city attorney for Little Falls. He is a well trained, able counselor and has won the esteem of the county of his adoption and has a paying clientage.

J. N. True practiced in Little Falls from about 1900 to 1905, then moved to Oregon, but is now again practicing in the courts of this state. He was an excellent lawyer and a good citizen. Clarence Yetter practiced here about 1907-8 for a short period. E. B. Prebble came here in 1887 and practiced law until 1890. He was county attorney three months, but resigned his office and located in St. Paul, where for a time he practiced. He then removed to Washington state, where he amassed a handsome fortune and has been judge of the superior court for about a dozen years.

There have doubtless been a few more who sought to practice law in this county, from time to time, but not for any considerable time, and these names have slipped from the memory with the flight of years. These named above, however, are the principal attorneys who have made a record worth remembering at the Morrison county bar—past and present.

## ATTORNEYS OF 1915.

At present the members of the bar practicing in Morrison county are as follows: E. P. Adams, Nels N. Bergheim, E. A. Kling, Don M. Cameron, Louis W. Vasaly, S. C. Vasaly, F. W. Lyon, E. F. Shaw, A. H. Vernon, C. Rosenmeir.

## BAR ASSOCIATION.

In the spring of 1915 there was formed a Bar Association for Morrison county to which all attorneys subscribed their names. Its officers are: President, E. P. Adams; vice-president, F. W. Lyons; treasurer, Stephen Vasaly; secretary, Nels N. Bergheim. If well attended and fostered, this association will be of great mutual good to members of the Morrison county bar. Its history, however, is yet to be made and written by some future county historian.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### MILITARY AND INDIAN AFFAIRS OF MORRISON COUNTY.

It will be remembered that, while Minnesota was the first of all the loyal states to forward men to the front, after President Lincoln's call for troops to suppress the Rebellion at the South, in April, 1861, the part of the state in which Morrison and Todd counties are situated was but thinly settled, hence did not furnish many soldiers for that conflict. There were, however, a few here who went at their country's call, including Lyman W. Ayer, who is still a resident of the city of Little Falls. The exact number who enlisted from this county is unknown, owing to the fact that the state's military reports do not give soldiers' names by counties, but by commands in which they served. But after the end of that war many soldiers came here and took claims and homesteads, and became prominent in the first events of the two counties. This is certain, from the fact that numerous Grand Army posts were organized all over the territory of the counties named, some few of which are still active, while others have gone down, as the comrades have nearly all passed to the other shore.

At the time of the breaking out of the Spanish-American War, because of the fact that so few were needed to make up the quota in Minnesota and that those sections where National Guards were stationed furnished most of the men needed for the state, Morrison county did not send many to that short, though decisive conflict. A few, however, enlisted from this county. As Minnesota failed to publish a full report of its part in that war, we are unable to give details concerning the enlistment of the few who did serve from here.

The most interesting chapter on military affairs in this section was made by the Indian outbreak of 1862, commencing at New Ulm and winding up at the North, with the final execution of thirty-eight Indians at Mankato in December, 1863, by order of President Lincoln. The following is an account of such warfare, and will interest every Morrison and Todd county reader.

## THE INDIAN OUTBREAK.

After the fearful massacre at New Ulm, Minnesota, in August, 1862, the military department of Minnesota and the general government were busy at organizing and equipping a military force to proceed against and if possible punish the savage Sioux for the awful crimes they had committed upon the innocent citizens of Minnesota. The suddenness of the outbreak found them totally unprepared for any emergency. The Sixth Regiment was in barracks at Ft. Snelling, nearly full and partially organized, but its field officers had not yet been appointed nor had the men received their arms. The Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Regiments were also partly recruited, but not mustered in. Skeleton companies were at Ft. Snelling, but none had been organized, and all the men were undisciplined. Large numbers had been let off on furlough, to complete harvesting their crops. All the arms due the state had been drawn and issued to the old regiments. The general government was so hard pushed that even the blankets and tents could not be furnished to the new troops. Immediately on receiving the news, Governor Ramsey appointed Hon. H. H. Sibley, of Mendota, to the command of such forces at Ft. Snelling as the commandant there, Col. B. F. Smith, could organize on the instant. Colonel Sibley was admirably qualified for such a responsible position. His long and intimate acquaintance with the Indians and their character and habits (and especially was this true of the bands now in rebellion), together with his knowledge of military matters and his familiarity with the topography of the country, enabled him to either meet the savages in the field successfully, or to treat with them to advantage.

Four companies of troops, about three hundred in all, armed with Belgian rifles and nineteen thousand cartridges, were furnished to him, and they at once started on a small steamer for Shakopee, arriving there on the 20th. From thence they marched to St. Peter. On the 21st the six remaining companies of the Sixth Regiment were filled by consolidation and transfers, and sent forward as rapidly as possible. On the 21st, Governor Ramsey issued a proclamation, reciting the news of the outbreak, and calling on such citizens as had horses and arms to start at once and join the expedition moving up the river. Considerable numbers did so. Companies of horsemen were formed in St. Paul and several other places, and rode forward night and day. Small companies of infantry also organized in various towns in the central and eastern part of the state, and made forced marches to the relief of the frontier. By the end of the "first week of blood" (a very short

period considering how unprepared the state was for such a war) several parties of armed men were pressing forward on different routes to meet and drive back the savages. These companies were mostly distributed at stockades and garrisoned towns along the frontier, where they remained for several weeks, until the worst danger was over. On September 9th, Governor Ramsey's message reports, there were twenty-two militia companies, with two thousand eight hundred men under arms, and volunteer troops enough to make five thousand five hundred men in all.

On Friday, the 22nd, says the report, Colonel Sibley arrived at St. Peter, and remained there some three days, getting his troops in hand and properly armed. The latter was a work of difficulty. Most of the Sixth Regiment were armed with Belgian rifles, many of them almost worthless and none of them very reliable. But a small part of the cartridges furnished were of the right calibre, and much time was lost in "swedging" bullets. Governor Ramsey had, on the 20th, telegraphed to the governor of Wisconsin to "borrow" one hundred thousand cartridges. They were promptly sent, and reached Colonel Sibley at Ft. Ridgley. Provisions had to be collected and transportation secured. Meantime, the people of the state were nervous with anxiety, and blamed the commander and state authorities for not throwing the half-armed men and unorganized troops at once on the several hundred well-armed and desperate savages, at New Ulm or Ft. Ridgley. Had this been done, a Custer massacre would have resulted, and another rout and panic ensued, many-fold worse than that of the previous week.

On August 25, Col. B. F. Smith was ordered to organize a force of one thousand men, out of detachments of the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Regiments, at Ft. Snelling, and dispatch said force at once, to join Colonel Sibley. This force was placed under the command of Lieut.-Col. William R. Marshall, of the Seventh Regiment, and moved forward as soon as it could be properly equipped, reaching the expedition on September 1.

The difficulty in securing transportation for these expeditions was a serious drawback to celerity of movements. Finally, a general order was issued by the adjutant-general, authorizing the commanding officers of detachments in actual service to seize and impress citizens' teams whenever needed. This was done, and enough transportation secured in that way, resulting in many cases of individual hardship, but this is one of the inexorable "necessities of war." Good rifles were few. Many of the troops were very poorly armed and of even these inferior guns enough could not be procured. The general government was telegraphed to, but could supply

none in season to do any good. The authorities then seized all the gun-shops in the states and confiscated their serviceable rifles, muskets and ammunition. All of the powder and lead in the hands of the dealers everywhere were seized, yielding three thousand one hundred and seventy-five pounds of powder and one thousand two hundred pounds of lead. Even this was insufficient. A lead pipe some three thousand feet long, which had been laid in one of the streets of St. Paul, but was just then unused, was dug up and melted into bullets. A force of young women were working day and night making cartridges. Finally, however, all the troops were supplied and equipped and no further trouble was felt. It must be remembered that there were then no railroads in the state (except between St. Paul and Minneapolis) and no telegraph, but one from St. Paul to La Crosse, Wisconsin. All military messages and dispatches to the frontier, had to be sent by special carriers on horseback.

#### DANGER OF A CHIPPEWA WAR.

Meantime, a new danger threatened the people of the state. In addition to the powerful Sioux nation, there were in Minnesota the Winnebagoes, comprising four hundred warriors, and in the northern half of the state the Chippewas, who could muster two thousand five hundred or three thousand warriors. There were good grounds for believing that these tribes had been in consultation with the Sioux, and that if the latter were successful, they also would rise. It has been proved that several Winnebagoes participated in the earlier murders near the Upper and Lower agencies, while on the same day of the outbreak at Redwood, the Chippewas commenced plundering their agency at Crow Wing on the upper Mississippi, and assembling armed warriors. They acted very turbulent and defiant, and an outbreak between them and the whites was imminent. Indeed, on one occasion, shots were exchanged. The possibility of an outbreak by them weighed so on the mind of Major L. C. Walker, their agent, that he committed suicide near Monticello, on the 23rd of August. Companies of cavalry were authorized by the authority of the state to protect the country north of St. Paul, and performed patrol duty for some days. Had the Chippewas risen also, nearly the whole state would have been laid waste. Even the cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis, etc., would have been captured, as there were not arms enough in those places to defend them. A company of Home Guards was organized in St. Paul as a precautionary measure. For



some days the situation was very critical and full of danger. Finally, Hon. William P. Dole, the commissioner of Indian affairs, Hon. H. M. Rice, Major E. A. C. Hatch, Clark W. Thompson, and the other men who had influence with the Ojibways, calmed them down and averted what might have proved an awful disaster.

While the Indian outbreak did not invade Morrison county to any great extent, its surrounding counties were badly harassed and great excitement existed in Morrison itself, men being rushed from its borders in defense of the people in adjoining counties and to preclude any chance of trouble here.

Wright county does not seem to have suffered by Indian invasions. Fortifications were erected by the people at various points, but no depredations occurred in that locality.

Western and southern Stearns county suffered severely from the depredations of the red-skins. About August 23, 1862, they committed murders and other unmentionable crimes near Paynesville. The people of that town erected a strong stockade, and the citizens and refugees from other points further west sheltered themselves therein. A portion of the little town was burned, but no attack was made on the post. At Maine Prairie, St. Josephs, Sauk Center, Clearwater, Little Falls, and other places similar stockades were constructed and held by a few determined men. At St. Cloud, which was filled with refugees, strong fortifications were built and preparations made to defend the place to the utmost, but, fortunately no foe appeared. A number of persons were murdered by the savages in the southern part of Stearns county and many houses burned to ashes.

The southwestern portion of Minnesota was also overrun and numerous murders committed. This district was soon afterward placed in command of Colonel Flandrau and about five hundred militia gathered in garrisons at different points, who soon rid the country of the Indian tribes.

The Third Regiment, which had been paroled, after its surrender at Murfreesboro, was now at Benton Barracks, Missouri. Governor Ramsey telegraphed to have them sent to Minnesota at once, and the request was complied with. The regiment received its exchange on August 24th, and they arrived in St. Paul September 4th. All their officers were still prisoners in the hands of the rebels at the South, and the companies were commanded by non-commissioned officers. Major Welch, who was not with the regiment at its surrender (having been taken prisoner at Bull Run), was in command of the regiment. Three hundred men were at once sent to the frontier, where they did good service, being the only veteran troops engaged during the war.

On August 23, 1862, Governor Ramsey called for an extra session of the Legislature, to meet on September 9. It was in session until September 29 and gave its attention mainly to Indian war matters. A board of auditors was created to adjust claims growing out of the massacre, and seventy-five thousand dollars were appropriated to settle such claims. Congress was memorialized to reimburse the state for its outlay. A board of commissioners was created to collect the names of the slain and the facts connected with their death. [This provision was never carried out.] The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars was voted for the relief of indigent refugees. Congress was also asked by this Legislature to remove the Winnebagoes from Minnesota, which was done.

#### SIEGE OF FORT ABERCROMBIE.

In order to show just how this Indian war terminated, the following paragraphs, though not concerning any special Morrison county history, are here appended:

On August 23, the Indians commenced hostilities in the valley of the Red River of the North. Ft. Abercrombie was then garrisoned by company D, Fifth Regiment, but about one-half of the company was enlisted from Georgetown, protecting the transportation company's goods at that place. Early on the 23rd a band of five hundred Sissetons and Yanktons crossed the Otter Tail river, with the intention of capturing a train of goods and drove of cattle en route for Red lake, where a treaty was to be made with the Chippewas. The train was at once ordered to take refuge in Ft. Abercrombie and did so. Most of the citizens in the surrounding region also repaired to that post for safety, but many were killed or taken prisoners. The town of Dayton was totally destroyed.

Reinforcements were ordered to Ft. Abercrombie as soon as its danger was learned, but the troops sent out were detained en route to protect and aid threatened places in Stearns and Meeker counties, and did not reach the fort until too late. Meantime, it was in great danger, being quite surrounded by the enemy. A number of hot skirmishes had taken place near by, between detachments of the troops and the Indians. On August 30th the latter appeared in large numbers before the fort. A large herd of the treaty cattle (one hundred and seventy-two head) and about one hundred horses and mules were grazing on the prairie near by. The Indians drove these off, and the small garrison could make no resistance. On September 3, at daybreak,

the Indians attacked the post. A fight was kept up for two or three hours, but they were repulsed, with some loss on both sides. Active measures were then taken to strengthen the post by a stockade of timber. On September 6th a second attack was made by the Indians and a sharp battle raged until near noon. A number of the Indians were killed and others wounded, but only one of the defenders was killed and one mortally wounded. The Indians hung around the fort, occasionally attacking a messenger or a watering party, until September 23, when reinforcements arrived via St. Cloud, to the great joy of the besieged men at the garrison, who had been under fire and suspense for three weeks. No further demonstrations, of any force, were made by the Indians. But for the brave resistance made by a mere handful of soldiers, aided by a few good citizens, the post must have fallen into the hands of the savage foe.

#### MOUNTED RANGERS.

The want of a mounted force to pursue the Indians was severely felt by Colonel Sibley. His small number of irregular mounted militiamen were leaving for their homes. He several times urged Governor Ramsey to provide cavalry, and that official, in turn, asked of the war department the proper authority. This was granted on September 1, and a regiment of mounted rangers at once called for, for three months' service, which was subsequently changed to one year. The regiment was soon recruited, and Col. S. McPhaill appointed colonel.

#### BATTLE OF BIRCH COOLIE.

While waiting at Ft. Ridgley for proper supplies and equipments, and before undertaking any offensive campaign against the Indians, Colonel Sibley sent out, on August 31, a detachment to bury the dead bodies, rescue any fugitives that might be found, and make a reconnoissance. This detachment consisted of part of company A, Sixth Regiment, Capt. H. G. Grant, about seventy mounted men under Capt. Joseph Anderson, and a fatigue party—about one hundred and fifty men in all, accompanied by seventeen teams. The whole force was in command of Major Joseph R. Brown, who was perfectly familiar with the country and with Indian warfare. On the first day's march, sixteen dead bodies were found and buried. September 1 (the next day), the force separated into two detachments. During this day, fifty-five mutilated bodies were buried. In the evening the whole force

went into camp at Birch Coolie, in a spot selected by Major Brown. Not an Indian had been seen that day.

Just before daybreak on the 2nd, the camp was aroused by a volley of firearms and the yells of Indians, who had crawled unperceived within a few yards of the encampment. For a few minutes terrific volleys were poured into the tents, cutting them into shreds and killing or wounding a number of men and horses. As soon as they could seize their arms, those soldiers who were unhurt crawled out and, sheltering themselves as well as they could behind wagons, dead horses, etc., returned fire. Shortly after daylight the men began excavating, with such implements as were at hand, a line of rifle pits, and in a short time had about two hundred feet dug.

The firing in the still of the morning was heard by the sentinels at Ft. Ridgley, fifteen miles away, and a detachment of troops, under Colonel McPhaill, at once pushed off to their relief. When within three miles of Birch Coolie, they were met by such a large force of Indians they could not advance, and sent a courier back for reinforcements. Meantime, the troops of Major Brown's command lay all day in their rifle pits, keeping the savages at bay. The wounded were cared for as well as possible, but a number died before the end of the day.

As soon as McPhaill's courier reached Ft. Ridgley, a large force, with some artillery, was sent to the relief of his and Major Brown's troops. They came up about daylight and the whole column then pushed on to Birch Coolie, dislodging and driving the Indians from their position, after the latter had kept the white men under fire for thirty-six hours, without food or drink.

The camp was an awful scene, when relieved. Twenty-three men had been killed outright or mortally wounded, forty-five badly wounded, and seventy horses killed. The dead were buried on the spot and the wounded were carried back to Ft. Ridgley in wagons. Thus terminated the most bloody battle of the war, and one which spread gloom over the entire state. It is not creditable to Minnesota that this battle ground should have been so long neglected and allowed to pass into private hands, after which it was cut up by the plow share. A suitable monument should have there been erected to the sacred memory of those fallen heroes.

## RELIEF FOR THE REFUGEES.

One historian wrote of this subject in the following words: "The condition of the poor refugees from the ravaged districts was deplorable in the extreme. In St. Peter alone, there were in September as many as six thousand or seven thousand people for some days, and at one time fully eight thousand. In St. Paul there were one thousand and at Minneapolis an equal number, while all the smaller towns had as many in proportion. They were all destitute of money, clothing, employment, etc., and many were sick, while not a few were actually insane from grief and trouble. The active exertions of citizens of St. Peter alone prevented great suffering there, but their means were soon exhausted. Then they appealed through the papers for aid. Governor Ramsey appointed commissioners to receive and disburse supplies. About twenty thousand dollars in money was contributed, half of which came from Eastern cities, while large quantities of clothing came through local relief committee work, in St. Paul and other places. The Legislature, when it met, voted twenty-five thousand dollars more. These amounts relieved the worst cases of need. In October most of those whose homes had not been destroyed returned to them, and the number of destitute rapidly decreased. Several hundred, however, had to be supported all winter. Fortunately, laborers had now become scarce, and wages enhanced, so that all able to work could get positions. The building of railroads went along unchecked in the midst of this terrible calamity. The Winoa & St. Peter railroad completed about ten miles of its road that autumn."

## TRYING TO RELEASE PRISONERS.

Before leaving the bloody battlefield of Birch Coolie, Colonel Sibley left the following note attached to a stake:

"If Little Crow has any proposition to make to me, let him send a half-breed to me, and he shall be protected in and out of camp.

"H. H. SIBLEY,

"Col. Com'g Mil. Exped'n."

Colonel Sibley had reason to believe that their repeated defeats had discouraged the foe, and that negotiations could be made with the disaffected

Indians and those tired of fighting, for the release of their prisoners. The note thus thoughtfully left soon bore good fruit.

It was now evident that all the marauding bands from the interior had been called in and that the Indians would, with all their combined forces, oppose the column on its march. Colonel Sibley ordered the Third Regiment, then at Glencoe, to join his command, and it reached Ft. Ridgley on September 13. Meantime, Colonel Sibley's note had been shown Little Crow on his return from the raid on the Big Woods settlers, and A. J. Campbell, a half breed, who acted as secretary, read it to him. Crow at once dictated a reply, blaming Galbraith and the traders for wronging them, and enumerated some grievances which had caused the war. He requested an answer. This note reached Colonel Sibley at Ft. Ridgley on September 7. Colonel Sibley at once replied, demanding that Little Crow should release the prisoners and he would then treat with him. On September 12 a reply was received from Crow, saying that the Medwakanantons had one hundred and fifty prisoners, and other bands some more. He said, "I want to know from you, as a friend, what way I can make peace for my people." Colonel Sibley at once replied, urging Crow to give up the prisoners, and complaining that he had allowed his young men to kill nine more whites since he sent the first letter. The same courier who brought Little Crow's letter, also brought one privately from the chief Wabasha, and Taopi, a Christian Indian. They asserted they were forced into the war and were now anxious to make peace, and if a chance offered they would come in and give themselves up, with all their prisoners. Colonel Sibley replied to this message, urging them to do so and promising them protection, adding that he was now strong enough to crush all the Indians who held out. When this letter was received by Wabasha and his friends who wished to separate from the other Indians, a great dispute arose among all the bands. Indeed, disaffection and jealousy had been brewing ever since the outbreak. The prisoners were in great peril and might have been murdered. But at last all worked well and the friendly and repentant Indians carried the day.

The war department had meantime created Minnesota and Dakota into a military department, and appointed Gen. John Pope to the command. He reached St. Paul September 12, and established his headquarters there. New regiments, made up of the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth, had been hurried off to the western frontier, half organized, and were by this time being completely organized and mustered in.

## BATTLE OF WOOD LAKE.

Colonel Sibley, after the arrival of the Third Regiment and the supplies and ammunition he had needed, broke camp, September 18, and started in pursuit of the Indians at or near Yellow Medicine. On the morning of September 23, while encamped near Wood lake, the Indians suddenly attacked the force. The Renville Rangers were thrown out and met the enemy bravely. Major Welch soon had the Third regiment in line, and they poured steady volleys into the advancing line of Indians, as did also the Sixth Regiment, under Major McLaren. The fight then became general. Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall charged the enemy with three companies of the Seventh and A of the Sixth, and put them to rout. The battle had lasted an hour and a half. Our loss was four killed and fifty wounded—among the latter, Major Welch. The Indians lost quite a number—thirty it is said—fifteen being found dead on the field. After burying the dead, Colonel Sibley marched toward Lac qui Parle, near which place Wabasha had notified him he would meet him and deliver up the prisoners.

## RELEASE OF THE CAPTIVES.

On September 26, the column arrived at the camp where the friendly Indians had the prisoners, and made their camp near by. It was opposite the mouth of the Chippewa river, and was named by our men "Camp Release." Without delay, Colonel Sibley visited the Indians and demanded the captives. They were at once produced, nearly two hundred and fifty in number. Many wept with joy at their release; others had grown almost indifferent. These poor people—mostly women and children—were sent as soon as possible to their friends, if the latter were still living. The Indians who had given themselves up were at once placed under guard until they could be examined as to their guilt. During the next few days a number came in and gave themselves up, and some smaller parties were captured soon after, by our troops under Lieut.-Colonel Marshall, so that soon our force had over two thousand Indian warriors in their hands. Colonel Sibley at once organized a military commission, composed of Colonel Crooks, Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall and Captain Grant, with I. V. D. Heard as judge advocates, to examine the Indians and indicate the guilty ones. Another commission of five officers was appointed to try accused persons.

These commissions continued their work until November 5, by which time they had found three hundred and twenty guilty of murder, ravishing and other crimes, and sentenced three hundred and three to death. These were at once removed to South Bend, there to await the orders of the President—Abraham Lincoln—while the other Indians and their families were taken to Ft. Snelling and confined all winter in the stockade.

#### CLOSE OF THE INDIAN WAR.

Meantime Little Crow and the still hostile Indians had retreated into Dakota and before winter had reached Devil's lake, where they remained until the following spring. As the war in this state was now practically over, most of the settlers whose homes had not been destroyed returned to them. The Third Minnesota Regiment, the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin and the Twenty-seventh Iowa were sent south before winter, but the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota, with the Mounted Rangers, were retained for home service, and were stationed in detachments in a cordon of posts reaching from the south line of the state across the frontier to St. Cloud. The country between these garrisons was carefully scouted and patrolled, so that no hostile Indians could pass the line. On November 25, General Pope moved his headquarters to Milwaukee, and Brigadier-General Sibley (for such he had been made after the battle of Wood Lake) remained in command at St. Paul. That winter passed without any hostilities.

#### EXECUTION OF THIRTY-EIGHT INDIAN MURDERERS.

The three hundred and three Indian murderers were kept in confinement at South Bend a short time and then removed to Mankato, where they were confined in a stone warehouse, strongly guarded. Meantime, some so-called "philanthropists," principally Quakers, at Philadelphia and other Eastern cities, interfered in the matter, and got up a strong petition and pressure to bear upon President Lincoln to pardon the guilty wretches. This was resisted by the prominent men and officials in Minnesota, the people of the state almost unanimously demanding their execution, and threatening, if it were not done, to apply lynch law to them. President Lincoln selected thirty-nine of the murderers, and on December 6 ordered General Sibley to execute them. This was carried into effect on December 26, at Mankato (one meantime dying of heart disease). Thus thirty-eight of the savages



were swung off of one scaffold, in the presence of a large concourse of people. The rest of the murderers were imprisoned until spring, then taken to Davenport, Iowa, where they were confined a few months, after which they were removed to a reservation on the Missouri river and set at liberty. Thus ended the last Indian outbreak in Minnesota, and settlers then commenced coming back to all of the counties that had been deserted, including parts of Morrison and all of Todd county.

#### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

Concerning those who were residents of Morrison county at the breaking out of the Spanish-American War in April, 1898, who enlisted at their country's call, there is but little information now to be had. Indeed there were only a few who were finally mustered into the United States service. As near as can be learned, the list included these: Otto Varner, Will Lamay, Harry W. Donovan, Chris Christianson, Antt, Matt and Leo Fishback, and Young Virnig. But few of these are still residing in the county at this time, and several are deceased, including young Christianson.

## CHAPTER XV.

### PHYSICIANS OF MORRISON COUNTY.

In times of health and bodily vigor, we sometimes speak lightly of the "family doctor"; but not so in times of sickness, when the cheek is hectic with burning fever, and life is held as if by a slender thread. Ever since the days of Galen, in all civilized portions of the world men and women have believed in medicine and doctors. Some give them too much credit and others do not give them enough. The fact is, medicine is a science, and he or she who is best educated and has had most experience in the science is best fitted to treat diseases. The profession is alongside the other honorable callings among men. With the advance of other sciences, the medical fraternity is keeping pace with the world of new and more rational thought. There are excellent, skilful physicians in all parts of the land, and though in this fraternity, as in all others, there are those practicing who are not qualified and should not be allowed to take the life of human-kind into their care and keeping. Yet, on the whole, the physicians of today rank equally with their fellow-workers in any of the other spheres of human activities. Especially in surgery has the world moved on rapidly in its recent strides. Operations once called impossible are now easily performed. The world is now filling up with splendid hospitals, wherein thousands of lives are saved, and where many bodily deformities and ailments are remedied.

It goes without saying that in Morrison county the people have had their share of good and bad physicians, but they have averaged with their profession elsewhere. There are "old schools" and "new schools" in medical practice, as well as in religious sects, but all are greatly improved, in later decades, over the old saddle-bag practice of fifty and eighty years ago.

Among the earliest physicians who practiced in Morrison county were Doctors Smith, Jordon and Metcalf, who were in Little Falls as resident physicians in 1856. It is said that all were quite eminent in their profession, but all left within three years after arriving, probably on account of

not having sufficient practice to keep them here longer. The county had but few residents at that date and people, as a general rule, were young, strong and seldom ill. Their habits of life, the fresh air and non-heated sleeping and living rooms, had something to do with the case. But when "civilized life" really set in, Morrison county needed its share of doctors, and then it was that they made their appearance.

After the three physicians named above had left the county, those needing medical attention had to go to Ft. Ripley, up in the edge of Crow Wing county, for a doctor. Dr. E. E. Braun, who had served as army physician and surgeon at Ft. Ripley up to 1866, his time having then expired, located at Little Falls, from which place he had quite a practice, even while connected with the military post at the old fort. He was a good, careful, tender and well-read physician. He died of a tumor on the right thigh, which growth weighed fifty-two pounds.

The next physician in Little Falls was Dr. E. Fletcher, who remained three years. He was succeeded by Dr. A. Guernon, who came here from St. Paul. He married a daughter of Doctor Braun and continued in medical practice here from 1872, being still an honored physician in 1876, as will be seen by reference to some historic items found among the writings of County Historian Nathan Richardson.

It was in 1875 when Dr. J. O. Simmons, the first homeopathic physician, entered this county. One of the first physicians in the county (some authorities say he practiced first of all) was Doctor Lewis, who came in with Rev. Frederick Ayer and located at Belle Prairie. He died and was first buried there, but was subsequently reinterred at Little Falls.

In an interview with an old resident of Little Falls, it is learned that since 1882 the physicians who practiced here in the eighties and nineties were as follow: Doctor Simmons; Doctor Guernon; Dr. J. A. Macmannis, of Ohio, who died at a St. Cloud hospital in April, 1886; Dr. G. M. A. Fortier, who arrived from Canada in 1884 and is still practicing; Dr. J. C. Buchanan, of Montreal, Canada, was here two or three years, about 1885, and located at Wadena, Minnesota; Dr. O. C. Trace, who came in 1890, moved to Clear Lake, Minnesota, in 1909; Dr. Will Tupper came in about 1885, remained until 1888 and located at Minneapolis, where, at last accounts, he was still practicing the profession; Dr. Paquin (eclectic school) came about 1889 and in 1896 moved away and died, having practiced at Minneapolis for a time; he was buried at Little Falls. He was a soldier of the Civil War and highly respected both as physician and citizen.

## LIST OF REGISTERED PHYSICIANS.

The subjoined is a list of the various physicians who have from time to time registered as being competent, under the board of state medical examiners, to practice, and did practice in Morrison county since such law went into effect early in the eighties: C. Johnson, 1883; George C. Buchanan, of Stearns county, 1883; William C. Cuff, St. Paul, 1887; William Davidson Rea, of Hennepin county, 1898; T. S. Schweiger, of Morrison county, 1904; Alexander McLean Watson, 1905; Martin A. Nelson, 1894; A. J. McMannis, of Ohio, 1883; G. M. A. Fortier, of Canada, 1883; A. Guernon, Canada, 1884; James W. Barnard, of Todd county, graduate of Michigan University, 1883; James Lonsdale, Rush Medical College, here in 1884; William G. Tupper, Goodhue county, University of Minnesota, here in 1886; John H. Kinney, Miami Medical College, 1876, came here in 1883; E. Boek, University of New York City, 1869, came here in 1887; H. W. Wells (homeopath), Redwood, Minnesota, 1887; J. G. Houston, Anoka, Western Reserve Medical College, Ohio, 1874, and here in 1884; Cyril O. Paquin, Grant county, medical department Iowa University, 1872; here in 1883; Noe Dumont, Stearns county, came from Canada and registered here in 1887; Joseph C. R. Charest, of Canada, University of Victoria, 1884, and here in 1885; J. G. Millspaugh, here in 1893; A. A. Noyes, Keokuk Medical College, Iowa, 1850, here in 1883; S. Harvey Corrigan, Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, here in the nineties; Edward Sequin, Ramsey county, here 1900; Erastus Y. Arnold, Polk county, of Rush Medical College, Chicago, 1879, here 1883; John Edmund Darrow (homeopathic), here in 1898; Henry P. Richard, here in 1900; Elmer E. Hall, Washington, Maine, here in 1902; Norman W. Chance, 1898; Edward Charles Beer, province of Ontario, 1903; John B. Holst, Goodhue county, here 1895; Claude F. Holst, Hennepin county, here 1901; Charles E. Bryant, of Cleveland, Minnesota, here 1902; E. E. Schafer, Grey Eagle, 1902; Otis J. Brown, Goodhue county, Minnesota, medical department of Western Reserve College, Ohio, 1882, registered here in 1886; George McCollough, Ramsey county, here in 1904; Lemuel M. Roberts, Crow Wing county, Minnesota, Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, 1883, here in 1885; Orville C. Trace, Benton county, University of Michigan, here in 1884; John L. Landry, Crow Wing county, came from Canada, located here 1884; William J. Warren, Hennepin county, here in 1897; Clement A. Westhoelter, Wright county, here in 1896; Robert Wilson Campbell,

Hennepin county, 1905; Edward Louis Fortier, of Morrison county, admitted here 1908; Samuel Graham Knight, of Delaware, 1910; James Davidson, here in 1892; Arthur M. Wooster, 1911; Raymond T. Healy, 1909; S. B. Newell, here in 1883; Eugene W. Young, Hennepin county, 1896; Joseph Gumper, Nebraska, here in 1909; C. L. Hughes, here in 1910; Irving George Wilttrout, St. Croix county, Wisconsin, here in 1912.

#### PRESENT PHYSICIANS.

The following is a list of the physicians practicing in the county at the present time—1915—with possibly a few more in some of the small villages: At Motley, George McCollough; at Royalton, A. W. Watson; at Pierz, E. H. Kerkhoff and R. T. Healey; at Swanville, I. G. Wilttrout; at Little Falls, Doctors G. M. A. Fortier and son, E. L. Fortier (the elder came to Little Falls about 1880), O. J. Brown, L. M. Roberts (homeopathic), J. B. and C. F. Holst, N. Dumont, N. W. Chance and J. G. Mills-paugh.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### COMING OF THE RAILROADS.

Perhaps no state in the Union has been more advanced by the construction of steam railways than Minnesota. In May, 1857, Congress gave Minnesota, then still a territory, a magnificent grant of about nine million acres of land, to aid in the construction of several projected trunk lines through her bounds. The roads specified were: From Stillwater, via St. Paul and St. Anthony Falls, to Big Stone lake, with a branch via St. Cloud and Crow Wing, to the navigable waters of the Red River of the North; from St. Paul and St. Anthony, via Minneapolis, to a point on Big Stone lake, and other lesser lines. An extra session of the legislature was convened in June, 1857, to accept the land grant and devise some means of constructing these railroads.

The idea of a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans was openly discussed as early as 1837, by Dr. Hartwell Carver, who memorialized Congress on the subject. In 1845 Asa Whitney evolved a plan for the northern route. He was called a visionary swindler, but he went ahead for all that, and made a preliminary survey from Prairie du Chien as far west as the Rocky Mountains. Josiah Perham, afterward first president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, in 1857 projected a line from Maine to Puget Sound, to be known as the People's Pacific Railroad, and obtained a charter from the Maine Legislature, but Thaddeus Stevens talked him out of the scheme, though he agreed to aid him in securing a bill for the construction of what is now known as the Northern Pacific route. This bill passed both houses of Congress and was signed by President Lincoln, July 2, 1864. The first permanent officers were: Josiah Perham, president; Willard Sear, vice-president; Abiel Abbott, secretary; J. S. Withington, treasurer.

The first land grant gave six sections to the mile, but in 1864 the grant was extended to ten sections per mile, taking the odd-numbered sections for ten miles on each side of the right-of-way, and reserving the odd sections in the next ten miles to make up the deficiency where the odd sec-

tions of land on the first ten miles had previously been sold. By this condition nearly all the odd sections in Morrison county were held to fill the railroad grant.

After the Minnesota & Pacific Railroad Company had forfeited their rights to this grant, the Legislature of Minnesota, by an act approved in March, 1862, turned it over to the St. Paul & Pacific Company. This company completed the line of road from St. Paul to Sauk Rapids, where it stopped for several years. In 1871 the company commenced this line to Brainerd, to connect with the Northern Pacific, continuing the effort into 1872, when the grading was nearly completed and about three miles of track laid south from Brainerd. On the failure of Jay Cooke & Company, of New York, the work was stopped, and was never resumed by the same company. After failing to fulfill a number of promises looking to a completion of the road, the Legislature, by an act approved March 1, 1877, declared the right of the St. Paul & Pacific Company to build the line from Sauk Rapids to Brainerd forfeited, with all aid appointed for its construction. The same act specified the conditions on which any other company might build the road and enjoy the emoluments arising from the land grant. One section of that act provided that persons who had settled upon any portion of the land of the grant, and who resided upon the same at the time of the passage of the bill, should have the right to enter their claims under the homestead act or pre-emption laws. Under this provision, two hundred and twenty-five claims were filed in the governor's office in St. Paul, one hundred and fifty-eight of which were allowed; and those who for any cause were not entitled to enter lands they claimed, and had improved them, were allowed to purchase them of the railroad company at government price. On May 2, 1877, the Western Railroad of Minnesota informed the governor of the state that it was ready to construct the road in accordance with the terms named in the act of March 1, 1877, and, on receiving his approval, commenced work and completed the road in the month of November of that year, establishing three stations in this county, one at Royalton, one at Little Falls and one at Belle Prairie, since which time the road has been in active operation.

The Little Falls & Dakota railroad, a line leading from Little Falls westward, by the way of Sauk Center, Glenwood and Morrison, to Brown's Valley, on the western border of the state, was projected in 1872. The Legislature of the state passed an act in the latter part of that year, authorizing the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company to construct this line of road as a branch line. It failed to build the road in the specified time, and

no further action was taken until in the autumn of 1878, when a convention was called to meet at Sauk Center on January 22, 1879. On the day following a company, called the Little Falls & Dakota Railroad Company, was organized, with J. G. Whittemore, of Glenwood, president; N. Richardson, of Little Falls, vice-president; E. P. Barnum, of Sauk Center, secretary, and J. M. Moore, of Morrison, treasurer. By special legislation, all the towns and counties along the line, except Morrison county, submitted the proposition for aid in construction, at the fall election, in November, 1879, which election authorized the issuing of bonds. The amount asked was two hundred thousand dollars. The amount to be raised by Morrison county was thirty-five thousand dollars. The following spring Morrison county decided to issue bonds by a majority vote of seventy-five. A partial survey of the line was effected during the fall of 1879. The same company reorganized on September 17, 1879, at which time Hon. William Crooks, of St. Paul, was chosen president; Charles A. De Graff, of Janesville, vice-president; E. P. Barnum, of Sauk Center, secretary, and L. E. Reed, of St. Paul, treasurer. By the energy of the president, arrangements were made with capitalists whereby the building of the road was assured. In accordance with the contract, work must be commenced prior to July 1, 1880. In obedience to this requirement ground was broken on this road, at Little Falls, June 25, 1880.

The above lines of railroad are now all included within the Northern Pacific system, and are the only railroads within Morrison county, except the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie line, which runs from Duluth southwest, through the counties between there and Morrison county. It enters the last named in the central eastern portion and continues to its Dakota line, forming junction at Brooten. It crosses the Mississippi between Royalton and Little Falls. Its title is abbreviated to the "Soo" railroad. The original idea of such a railway system was conceived by the brain of State Senator W. H. C. Folsom, of the Minnesota Legislature, who introduced a bill in the Legislature in 1877; the same was passed and sent on to Washington in way of a memorial to Congress, which body was asked to make a right-of-way and land grant for the purpose of constructing such a railroad, the same to run from St. Paul and Minneapolis to Sault Ste. Marie falls. Its object was to shorten the route by rail from Minnesota, Dakota and Wisconsin to the seaboard of the Atlantic ocean, thus giving greater and better facilities for shipping grain, coal and lumber. It really shortened the route to the Atlantic about three hundred miles. Congress looked with much favor on the proposition, but nothing was effected in the



matter, practically, until September 12, 1883, when the road was incorporated in both Minnesota and Wisconsin by W. D. Washburn and others at Minneapolis, the title being Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie & Atlantic Railroad Company.

The road was completed to the "Soo" in December, 1887, and there connected with the Canadian Pacific. Its total length between points named is about two hundred and twenty-five miles. By using this route, six hundred and twenty-six miles transportation is saved in shipping to Liverpool via Montreal, instead of by the former route via Chicago and New York.

#### RAILROAD MILEAGE IN COUNTY.

The present mileage of railroads within Morrison county is about as follows: The main line and branches of the Northern Pacific railroad have sixty miles and the "Soo" line has thirty-six miles, making a total of main line tracks within Morrison county of ninety-six miles.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### TOWNSHIPS OF MORRISON COUNTY.

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#### BELLE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

As now constituted, Belle Prairie township comprises all of township 41, range 31, and all that part of range 32 east of the Mississippi river in Morrison county. Originally it extended from the river through to Mille Lacs county, and then contained more than 153,000 acres. It took on its present boundaries prior to 1886, in which, in 1910, there was a population of eight hundred and eighty-six. In 1880 it was described thus: "A strip of prairie, varying from one and a half to two and a half miles in width, skirts the river, back of which the surface is more rolling, and in places quite broken. Progressing eastward, heavy timber appears, mostly of the hardwood varieties, except in the north and eastern parts, where there is considerable timber."

A portion of this township was included in the Ft. Ripley reservation until the spring of 1878, when it was thrown open to settlers. Frank Howard obtained permission from the war department to open a farm on section 3, in 1858, and availed himself of the privilege that year. This was but a short distance from the fort, and there he remained until 1862.

#### SETTLEMENT.

Belle Prairie township was settled first by that faithful Congregational missionary, Rev. Frederick Ayer, a native of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He immigrated to this point in 1848 and established an Indian school, which was also attended for a time by white children. The Indians there at that time were of the Winnebago tribe, a high class of Indians, who soon dressed and followed other customs of the white race.

Harrison Fletcher made a claim in section 6, of township 41, range 31,

remained a number of years and moved to Minneapolis. In 1851 Asher Adams settled in section 1 and died there in 1864. Dr. William Lewis settled near the men above named in 1851 and remained several years. Prominent among those who followed those mentioned were O. A. Coe, F. J. Farrand and T. Hamilton. Anton Bisson came in 1853, being the first French Canadian to locate in the township. He was soon followed by others of his countrymen, who made up the principal settlement in the eighties and even later.

The first death in this township was a son of Frederick Ayer, who died on August 6, 1849. The first marriage was Benjamin Fletcher and Miss Jane Forbes, in either 1852 or 1853.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Belle Prairie was organized by the county commissioners on March 25, 1859, and the first officers appointed were as follow: F. Ayer, supervisor; S. T. Hamilton, justice of the peace; E. Taylor, clerk. The first election was held on April 5, when the following officers were elected: Supervisors, J. E. Aimot, chairman; F. Ayer and T. Bellefeialle; justices of the peace, William Lewis and J. E. Aimot; clerk, E. Taylor; assessor, D. Mason; collector, S. T. Hamilton; constables, D. Mason and H. Houde; road overseer, O. A. Coe.

#### VILLAGES.

Belle Prairie township has had two hamlets within its borders, Gravelville and Belle Prairie. The former was effected by the claim taken in 1876 by Charles Gravel, on Platte river, in the southeastern portion of the township, where a grist and saw-mill was soon put in operation. There had also been a saw-mill at the old mission as early as 1855, operated by a milling company, who later sold to F. Ayer, but it was later removed. A general store was opened at Gravelville in the seventies and was doing a good business in the eighties.

Belle Prairie, the seat of the Catholic school and church, is also a good small trading place, with a population of about twenty-five persons. Among the persons who had lived, or were living, within the township in 1881 may be recalled: Frederick Ayer, Lyman W. Ayer, Michael Aroux, Albert Barbeau, G. Bisson, John W. Ball, Anton Bisson, Felix Baistien, O. A. Coe, A. B. Coe, Moses E. Coe, Onesimus Chandonnet, John Clark, Joseph

Doucet, John Demars, Cyriac Du Fort, Rev. J. Fortier, F. J. Ferrand, N. Gravel, Charles Gravel, F. X. Goulet, William Harrison, O. King, George G. Kimball, James F. Kimball, Michael Ladoux, Joseph Ladoux, John B. Lafond, Edward W. Malburn, David Morin, Charles Pelkey, Samuel Trebby and Thomas M. Wilcox.

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#### MOTLEY TOWNSHIP.

Motley is the extreme northwestern township in Morrison county and is one of its smallest subdivisions. It comprises only about sixteen sections of land, on the south and west side of the Mississippi, in township 133, range 31 west. Originally it belonged to Green Prairie, but was detached and then extended north from the north line of township 131, but in 1895 was cut down to its present limits. It was organized in 1879, in the spring of which year an election was held and the first officers chosen as follow: H. B. Morrison, chairman; Frank Weston and J. A. McMillen, supervisors; H. Hawkins, clerk; J. R. McMillen, assessor, and H. B. Morrison, treasurer. The township was given its present boundaries in 1893.

But little is now to be learned of its early settlers, most of whom have passed away. The list that is on record includes many who settled in what was originally Motley, but now within Scanda Valley and adjoining townships, but will be here inserted, for their names should not be lost sight of in the annals of the county. They included these: Walter H. Benson, of Vermont; Owen Davis, of Ohio; Henry Hawkins, of Canada; Peter Knudson, of Danish parentage; Henry B. Morrison, of Vermont; S. A. McMillen, of Ohio; David J. Wilson, of New York state; Franklin L. Wilson, of Illinois, and Frank Weston, of Maine.

#### MOTLEY VILLAGE.

This sprightly village is in the extreme northwest corner of the township and is a station point on the Northern Pacific railroad. It was, when first established, the only station in Morrison county on this division, and enjoyed a large trade, although there were few settlers within several miles of it. The position was most favorable for distributing lumber and lumber camp supplies. A station and large freight house were immediately erected. Grain was bought here and shipped as soon as the station was ready to

receive it. It was hauled many miles and dumped into the freight cars, before the building of elevators. The first elevator was completed in 1874, by Chandler, Fisher & Waite, of Long Prairie. Another was erected in 1879 by Barnes & McGill.

Motley village was platted, originally, by the Lake Superior & Puget Sound Company. The oldest settler here was Calvin Priestly, who came for the railroad company in the autumn of 1872. No extended settlement was effected until the advent of H. B. Morrison. A postoffice was established in 1874, with William Johnson as postmaster.

In the spring of 1878 H. B. Morrison built a large lumber-mill here, which gave employment to many workmen. During the same summer a school was opened and a term was taught by Mrs. Frank Severance. It was only a subscription school. The following year a district was formed and better advantages were then had. In all matters of public interest Pioneer Morrison was a leader and captain in all industries and enterprises. He, however, met with discouragement and reverses, in that his first mill was burned a few months after it was in operation, and one of his faithful workmen lost his life in the angry flames. But he went ahead, rebuilt and put in steam power instead of water. He was enabled with his last mill to cut forty thousand feet of lumber in a ten-hour run. He made lumber, lath and pickets, and employed from ninety to one hundred workmen. In 1881 he opened a brick yard, in which twenty men found employment during the brick-making season.

About one mile from the village another lumber-mill was established in 1881 by Curtis & Lawrence, with a daily cut of twenty-five thousand feet, including shingles and lath. In 1881 Motley had three large general stores and two hotels, with corresponding shops. Its population was then about three hundred. Its population in 1910 was four hundred and twenty-five. Its business interests are now as follow: Auto garage, Charles W. Aiken, James H. Francisco; blacksmith, Harry Nogan; Central Minnesota Farmers' Co-operative Shipping Association, stock and potatoes, John Schmit, secretary; creamery, Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Company, Homer Lawhead, secretary; drugs, the Defenbaugh Drug Company, D. D. Defenbaugh, manager; dray line, Clinton Mosher; elevators, the Monarch Company, with Eugene Seely as manager; furniture, hardware and implements, V. Lockwood; general dealers, O. O. Torgerson, Motley Store Company, John O. Johnson, B. F. Cale; hotel, by James H. Francisco; lumber dealers, Dower Lumber Company, Charles Beirwatger, manager; mills, (feed), Fred Sears; millinery, Motley Store Company; newspaper, *The*

*Mercury*, by E. G. Haymaker; meats, Watzha Bros.; shoe and harness repairs, Ole Olson and D. Palmer; restaurant, George Davenport; real estate dealers, Thompson Land Company, Clement Thompson, manager; Timber Land Company, D. A. Robinson and Charles Watering; Hennepin Lumber Company has a saw-mill, though idle now; planing mill, with saw-mill, Alfred Wilson; photographs, A. L. Linquist; the Motley Telephone Company, organized 1907, V. Lockwood, president; S. W. Jacobs, secretary and treasurer; postmaster, E. G. Haymaker, who has been in charge since 1909, and was preceded by George Mosher, Emma Daily and Frank Newkirk; stock dealer, George Palmer; Exchange Store—little of everything—J. R. Webster, who also sells feed, groceries, etc.; physician, Dr. George McCollough.

#### MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

About thirty years ago Motley village was incorporated, but, for some reason unknown, it was never legally recorded in the county records. The present officers are as follow: President, Fred Sears; recorder, R. L. Benedict; trustees, John O. Johnson, George Palmer, Louis Brower; constables, Ralph Lyon and C. W. Aiken; justice of the peace, G. B. Gregory. The village has street and private wells for their only water supply. Mounted hand pumps and a hook-and-ladder apparatus, with a volunteer fire company, protect the buildings fairly well from fires. The streets and business places are illuminated by use of gasoline, through the medium of the appliances provided by the American Gas Light Company.

The churches of the village are the Methodist Episcopal, Free Methodist, Norwegian Lutheran, German Lutheran and Catholic. The lodges are the Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, Modern Brotherhood and Grand Army of the Republic. A twelve thousand-dollar school building was erected in 1909, by borrowing from the state funds, in way of issuing bonds drawing four per cent, payable in fifteen years.

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#### BELLEVUE TOWNSHIP.

Bellevue is the southeastern township in the county, on the east bank of the Mississippi, and constitutes township 39, range 31 and a part of range 32. It is bounded by the Mississippi on the west, by Buckman township on the east, Little Falls and Pierz on the north and Benton county on

the south. It formerly ran east to the county line and contained at one time twenty-eight thousand acres. It was organized in the spring of 1858, when it was six miles wide from north to south, and extended to the east a distance of twenty-eight miles. A tract eighteen miles long was detached in 1874 and formed into Buckman township, and in 1881 eighteen sections were taken from the east side and added to the latter township, thus reducing Bellevue to its present limits. Among the first township officers were: R. Lambert, chairman of the board of supervisors; D. McDougal, clerk; William Trask, treasurer; J. H. Hill, constable; John McGilles, justice of the peace; and John Frye, assessor. The population of Bellevue township in 1910 was eight hundred and thirty-two.

The first settlement was effected by John McGilles, a Scotchman, who made a claim in 1852, but soon sold to John B. Dearing and moved to Crow Wing. Duncan McDougal and Hugh Patterson made claims in sections 20 and 21 about the same date, but removed to other parts subsequently. Rev. R. D. Kenney was for many years a missionary among the Indians, and settled in section 35 about 1853. He was a Vermonter. P. A. Green, of New York, came in the fall of 1854, taking a claim in section 35, on part of which the village of Royalton is now situated. Other pioneer settlers were: Richard Lambert, Daniel Lambert, William Trask and Stephen Hill. These all located near the Mississippi river, but within a few years the settlement extended toward the interior and the township was finally well settled up.

The first school was at the house of Jasper Hill, in section 22, in 1857.

#### ROYALTON.

This is the only village in the township, and is situated on the south line of the township and county. Its population in 1910 was six hundred and seventy-six. It dates its history from 1878, when it was platted by P. A. Green on his land in section 35. It was named Royalton, but seems not to have been recorded. In 1879 J. D. Logan purchased a part of section 35 and had it surveyed and platted into a village called Royalton. Subsequently, Green recorded his plat, and although it was the original place, it bears the position of an addition. It is located on the Platte river, on the line of the Northern Pacific railroad, near the south line of Morrison county. In 1881 it is said to have had a postoffice, two churches, shops, grain warehouse and other business factors. At present it has six hundred and thirty-six population.

The saw-mill of J. D. Logan & Company was built in 1879, and had a daily capacity of fifteen thousand feet. It also had one run of stones by which feed was ground. The mills and other interests of the village have been of material value to the neighborhood.

Among the persons residing in this enterprising hamlet in the eighties were James Borden, James Chapman, Eugene Bowers, Robert Brown, Ira W. Bouck, Charles A. Green, Jasper Hill, Sylvester Henenlotter, a Prussian born in 1801 and the oldest living settler at one time; also Henry S. Hill, Mark Kobe, R. L. Lambert, Isaac P. Lambert and Stephen H. Muncy.

Royalton was incorporated in 1888 and its present officers are: L. J. Dassow, president; J. J. Chirhart, E. A. Russell, F. G. Noggle, trustees; N. E. Pettitt, recorder. The village is supplied with electric lights by a current from Little Falls.

The following are the business and professional factors of Royalton at the present date: Automobile agents, Logan & Wilson; attorney-at-law, Byron R. Wilson; banks, Farmers and Merchants State Bank, First National Bank; blacksmiths, D. L. Allison, E. A. Stein; confectionery, W. H. Gilmer, J. F. Ziegler, Ed Lakin, H. M. Logan; clothing, Joseph Garber; creamery, Royalton Farmers Co-operative Association; drugs, A. O. Heiberg; dry goods, Joseph Garber; dray, Herman Meyer; elevators, Powers Elevator Company, J. G. Bargabos & Son; farm implements, C. D. Bourke, George N. Chirhart, F. H. Lakin; flour-mills, Daniel Fussy; furniture, C. C. Lisle; general dealers, J. H. Russell, R. Wilde, John Welna; grocer, Fred Galley; hotels, Ole Isaksen, Matt Newman, Joseph Orth; harness, John Schwartz; hardware, Albert C. Bouck, Barney Fietsam; ice dealer, B. H. Cornell; jewelry, F. B. Logan; lumber, Rudd Lumber Company; livery, A. L. Armstrong, Joseph Newman; millinery, Mrs. Harris Noggle; meat markets, William Sparrow, C. H. Werner; photographer, William Getzkow; painter and paper hangers, H. T. Gilbert, George Miller; Royalton Power and Light Company; newspaper, *The Banner*; notary public, George E. Wilson; physician and surgeon, Dr. A. M. Watson; real estate, Frank T. Johnson, M. Dunlap, R. K. Carnes; shoe store, Gustav Kern; saloons, George Armstrong, M. K. Shroch, W. J. Broker, J. A. Hemberger; postmaster, W. L. McGonagle; tailor, A. Halverson; barber, Ed Lakin; veterinary, Dr. A. M. Brolling; well drillers, C. H. Dawley, J. H. Miller.

The churches are Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal and Catholic.



## BUCKMAN TOWNSHIP.

Buckman township, which formerly included Lakin and Morrill townships, is in range 30 and half of range 31 and embraces fifty-four sections of land within its present borders. It is south of Agram and Pierz townships, west of Morrill, north of the Benton county line and west of Bellevue township. The surface of most of this territory is undulating, the greater portion being made up of prairie and oak groves. The soil varies from a light sandy to a dark loam with a gravel sub-soil.

In 1910, the population was eight hundred and forty-eight. This subdivision of Morrison county was organized into a civil township in 1874, and derived its name from Hon. C. B. Buckman, one of the early settlers. At first it contained three congressional townships, but in 1881 it was reduced by the formation of other townships to its present limits, and is now six miles by nine miles in extent. The first election was held in August, 1874, when the following officers were elected: C. B. Buckman, chairman; A. Skinner and William H. Young, supervisors; J. C. Johnson, clerk; G. W. Harvey and E. J. Verback, justices of the peace; J. H. Docken, treasurer; William H. Young, assessor; G. F. Geer and Henry Love, constables.

The first child born in Buckman township was Charles H. Johnson, on November 28, 1872. John Ebert was first to die in the township, in 1874. A postoffice was established called Buckman, in 1879, with Ed. Arnold as postmaster.

## SETTLEMENT.

The original settler in the township as now constituted was Joseph Mishkee, a Polander, who located in section 4 in 1871. William H. Young, a native of Maine, settled in section 22 the same autumn, but moved to Missouri in 1877. About the same date (1877) came John L. Finch a New Yorker, who located in section 22. Norway sent its settlers here in the persons of J. C. Johnson and J. H. Docken, both coming in 1872, and these were soon followed by C. B. Buckman, Michael Sand, A. B. Skinner and Edmund Geer. Also later came James H. Morton, A. B. Skinner and Andrew McCutcheon.

The churches and schools are treated in separate chapters, hence not mentioned in this connection.

The village of Buckman, in section 4, range 30, has a population of

about one hundred and forty, and has the usual number of shops and stores for a place of its size.

Among the present business and social interests may be mentioned: The fine new Catholic church built of brick, erected in 1903; its basement is of solid granite walls six to eight feet thick. The general merchandise store is kept by John Schmolke, who also deals in real estate. Another substantial business firm is that of Brande Brothers, John and Joseph, who carry harness goods, shoes, etc. A saloon is operated by Lawrence Billig. Mueller Brothers carry a general merchandise stock and run a saloon. Joseph A. Janson is village blacksmith and recorder. Implements are sold by James A. Dengel, and implements and hardware by Mrs. Frank Mischke. A racket store is operated by John Hesch. In 1913 the Buckman Farmers Creamery was organized, with first officers as follow: John Kelzenberg, president; John Poster, Peter J. Mueller, George Docken, directors; Joseph Hortsch, treasurer, and August B. Dehler, secretary.

The 1910 census gave Buckman as having one hundred and thirty-seven population.

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#### LITTLE FALLS TOWNSHIP.

Little Falls is one of the central townships in Morrison county and at one time had a vast extent of domain. West of the Mississippi it included one entire township and a fraction of another, in all about forty-one miles, while on the east side of the stream it extended to the eastern line of the county, but after Pierz was cut off it left it twelve miles to its eastern border on that side of the Mississippi. Its north line is a correction line by government surveys, which leaves the territory about one mile less in width than a regular congressional township. Through an error when laying out the township of Pierz, twelve sections of Little Falls were left where now is situated Hillman and Mt. Morris townships, hence Little Falls was really in two parts of the county for a time, with Pierz township between them.

That part of this township lying west of the Mississippi is level timber land and meadow land, and possesses a soil seldom excelled for its richness.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The township was organized in 1858, and an election was held on May 11, when these officers were elected: P. B. Thompson (chairman); J. R.

Perkins, Nathan Bates, board of supervisors; William Morse, clerk; T. M. Smith, assessor; F. X. Gravel, treasurer. The meeting was held at John Ault's hotel, later styled the Vasaly House, and the number of votes cast was eighty-two.

Outside of the city of Little Falls, the 1910 census returns gave the township's population as three hundred and fifty-six.

#### SETTLEMENT AND NATURAL FEATURES.

The early settlement on the east side of the river is treated in the city history. The first to locate on the west side of the river, was Milo Porter, who moved from the village on the east side, in 1868.

The main stream on the west side of the Mississippi in this township is Pike creek, which flows eastward through the central part. Little Elk river crosses the extreme northeastern portion of the township and affords a fine water power. To the east of the Mississippi river, in the township, the surface is quite level, or gently rolling, save along the streams east, where it is quite broken. The soil is sandy loam—both light and dark loam—with here and there streaks of clay.

#### EARLY FERRIES NOTED.

A ferry was started just above the village of Little Falls in 1857, by William Sturgis, which was in use three years, then abandoned. One was also established at Swan river by William Aitkin, soon after his location in 1848, and was continued until 1863.

The suspension of the ferry above mentioned caused much trouble in crossing and recrossing the Mississippi at this point. There was no crossing within the county limits below Ft. Ripley, where a ferry was established by the United States government in 1849-50. For several years the principal means of crossing the stream was by fording near Swan river, which, however, was not unattended by danger, and could only be accomplished during low water. April 1, 1868, the board of county commissioners of Morrison county passed a resolution appropriating six hundred dollars for the establishment of three ferries in the county, the points designated being Belle Prairie, Little Falls and Bellevue, each to have one-third of the amount named. Little Falls and Belle Prairie united their funds and secured the establishment of a ferry at the former place, just above the town site. This

remedied what had come to be a great draw-back to trade and travel to and from the county seat.

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#### PIERZ TOWNSHIP.

Pierz is one of the central-eastern civil townships in Morrison county, and is made up of congressional township 40, range 30 and part of range 31, and has fifty sections of land. When first formed it had much more territory within its limits. That portion now known as Rich Prairie was what attracted settlers to this portion of Morrison county. This lies in the southwestern part and is about three miles wide from east to west and from seven to eight miles long. The soil is a rich, dark loam and very productive. Aside from this tract the township is, or was, mostly all timber of the heaviest pine forest type. It was not improved until in the nineties.

#### PIONEER SETTLERS.

T. Elwell, later of Minneapolis, was the first man to locate within this township as now bounded. He undertook to build a city near the southwest corner of this township—41 north, range 29 west—on the banks of Skunk river, in 1858. There he constructed a large saw-mill and a commodious hotel. He sold a goodly number of town lots. He named his place "Granite City," for granite rock were scattered here and there near his cherished location, and he designed to use his material with which to build a city. He failed in his enterprise and not a vestige of a town remained in the eighties—not even his mill improvements. Many claims were selected at that date and many contemplated building for themselves homes in this wonderland. The land was well calculated for successful agricultural purposes; but the Civil War came on and checked immigration.

It was in the autumn of 1865 when Herman J. Billing, a German, went in with his family and spent the winter at Granite City in the old hotel building. The spring following he took a claim in section 8, township 40, range 30, but did not remain long, moving to Otter Tail county. Chris Vering, William Bergenhausen, Frank Yeager, John Roch, Nicholas Meyer, Reinhart Stumpf, Frank Konen, and others all settled in the township in the spring and summer of 1866. Rich Prairie was their choice. In 1880 the United States census gave this township a population of almost one thousand people. The 1910 enumeration gives it as six hundred and thirty-one.

## ORGANIZATION.

Morrison county, noted for its numerous and very large civil subdivisions, had as one illustration of vast civil territory, Pierz township. The records show that when it was organized in 1868 it contained townships 40 and 41, range 30; but in 1874, townships 40 and 41, range 29, were added, and this continued to be its domain until Hilman and Mt. Morris were created from a part of its territory. Its present territory is about one half its former extent. The Soo line of railroad runs through the township from northeast to southwest. It was cut down to its present boundaries in 1902. It was named in honor of that famous, faithful old Catholic priest, Father Pierz, who was instrumental in inducing Germans to settle there. The first election was held at the house of Nicholas Meyer, where the following were elected to township offices: Herman J. Billings, John Roch and Frank Yeager, supervisors; Frank Konen, clerk; Christ Virning, treasurer; R. Stumpf, assessor; William Bergenhausen, constable; Nicholas Meyer and Frank Konen, justices of the peace.

## FIRST EVENTS.

Father Pierz held the first religious services, and built a church in 1868. The same season a school was taught by Frank Konen. In 1880 the township had two general stores—one by Blake & Bentfelt, and the other by Frank Yeager.

A saw-mill was constructed in 1874 by T. Casper on the Skunk river. Its daily cutting capacity was two thousand feet of lumber. In 1876 grain grinding machinery was added and in 1881 steam power was furnished.

The Pierz postoffice was established in 1873, at the house of Frank Konen, who was postmaster three years, when James Hall was appointed. Following him came George Whitney in 1876, when the name was changed to Rich Prairie. In 1878 the office was moved to the house of Peter W. Blake, who was merchant and postmaster in 1881 and possibly much later.

## VILLAGES.

By reason of the establishment of a postoffice called Pierz, there sprung up a hamlet by that name on the north line of the township in section 8.

Upon the building of the Soo railroad in later years, a station was established about the center of the township, known as New Pierz or Pierz station. Another change is being effected this season (1915), the name New Pierz having been changed to Genola. The station on the railroad and the bank both made this change in the month of July.

#### TOWN OF PIERZ.

Pierz, a town of five hundred and forty-five population in 1915, was platted in section 8, of Pierz township, in October, 1887, but what is now known as Pierz was platted in 1891 by forty-three persons. It is situated in the north half of the south half of section 8, township 40, range 30, and in sections 34 and 35, of township 41, range 30. It was re-surveyed and corrected to date in 1903. Its present commercial interests are as follow: Physicians, Drs. E. H. Kerkhoff, R. T. Healy; Model Clothing Company, Joe Ries, proprietor; real estate, Joseph H. Grell; hardware, etc., J. H. Grell; garage and automobiles, Henry Gau; jeweler, F. J. Gilbride; harness goods, William Eller; shoes and furnishing goods, Herm Koering; blacksmithing, John Dombovy; Columbia Hotel, M. Wermkirchen, proprietor; general dealer, Frank Grell; general merchandise, P. A. Hartman; opera house, Frank Faust; Pierz Hotel, H. Bares, proprietor; clothing and furnishing, Barney Burton; German State Bank, A. R. Davidson, president; "Golden Rule" dry goods store, F. N. Viring & Company; hardware and groceries, Pierz Mercantile Company; groceries, Faust Brothers; Rich Prairie Milling Company; meat market, John Gassert, proprietor; millinery, Clara Nohmer, Mrs. Anna Vanderhoor; blacksmithing, Meyers Brothers; saloon, Hoheil & Gross, John Grell; barber, Frank Broude, John C. Boehme; hardware and groceries, Jacob Neisius; drugs, R. M. Dimcon; general merchandise, J. B. Hartman. The newspaper is the *Journal*, E. H. Kerkhoff, publisher.

Pierz was incorporated in January, 1892; water mains were put in some time in 1895; electric lights and power transmitted from Little Falls first operated in 1912. Ten cents per kilowat is charged by the council, but they obtain a rate in its purchase amounting to only four cents.

#### VILLAGE OF GENOLA—RECENTLY NEW PIERZ.

Genola was platted in 1908 and is a railway station on the Soo railroad in Pierz township, two miles from the northern line of the township, in sec-

tion 18. It is a good small trading point—a hamlet of good promise. Its present business interests are as follow: First State Bank; Peter Bekka, blacksmith; Handy Litke, saloon; Harsch & Grell, hardware and groceries; Peter Kelgenberg, hardware and groceries; F. O. Bolster, general merchandise; New Pierz Grain Company, Peter Solinger, manager; J. M. McGentry, of St. Cloud, operates a potato warehouse.

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#### TWO RIVERS TOWNSHIP.

On the west side of the Mississippi river and in what is described by government survey as parts of township 127 in ranges 29 and 30, is Two Rivers township. The surface of the land is undulating and the soil is light near the river but darker as one goes farther back. The eastern part is prairie land and originally had light brush growing on it. The central and western portions are heavily timbered and the soil varies from light to dark, rich loam.

Two Rivers township had a population of eight hundred and twelve in 1910. It derived its name from the stream Two Rivers, which flows through its limits and mingles its waters with those of the Mississippi.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The organization of this subdivision of Morrison county was authorized by the county commissioners, September 5, 1865. The first officers were: George Borman (chairman), Charles Austin and John Betzoldt, supervisors; Aaron Canfield, clerk; William Trask, Sr., treasurer; Alexander D. Cash and Nicholas Kinzer, justices of the peace; Allen Blanchard and Jacob Thramer, constables.

Originally the township included two and one-half congressional townships, but was reduced to its present size by the formation of Elmdale in the spring of 1881, by which over half of the original territory was detached.

#### SETTLEMENT.

The pioneer settler is believed to have been William Trask, a native of Kennebec county, Maine, who settled here in 1861, and died at the old home-

stead in section 5, in 1876, and was buried in Bellevue cemetery. Jacob Thramer, a German, located in section 17, in 1865, and was still a resident of that location in the eighties. Nicholas Kinzer, another German, came in 1864, locating in section 20. John and Jacob Betzoldt, Germans, also came in 1864. Calvin A. Tuttle, born in Connecticut in 1811, settled here in 1867, in section 8. He came to Minnesota in 1838 and was intimately associated with all the early history of Minnesota Territory.

#### FIRST EVENTS.

The first marriage in this township was performed in February, 1867, and John Bocknech and Susan Simon were the contracting parties. The husband died on June 26 that year, being among the first to die in the township. The first white child born was John Thramer, July 27, 1865. The earliest school taught was in the dwelling of John Betzoldt in the autumn of 1866, and the next in a log school house in section 20. Rev. Father Buch, a Catholic, preached the first sermon in the same building. The first saw-mills here were owned and operated by C. A. and C. J. Tuttle. About 1880 a flouring-mill was erected by Capt. Robert B. Young and son.

Among the residents of this township in 1881 may be recalled the following: Henry Armstrong, of Holland; George Borman, of Ohio; Franklin P. Farrow, a native of Minneapolis; I. L. Foster, of New Brunswick; John George Greissel, of Germany; Michael F. Gessner, of Baden, Germany; Elijah D. Goodwin, of Nova Scotia; Calhoun Hays, of West Virginia; Samuel W. Muncy, of Maine; Alexander McLeod, of Scotland; Paul Noe, of Bavaria; Silas S. Parmeter, of New York state; Henry A. Rhoda, a German; James Stanley, of Iowa; Richard L., Samuel M. and Daniel Trask, all of Maine; Calvin A. Tuttle, of Connecticut; Capt. Robert B. Young, of Pennsylvania. Thus it will be observed that all sections of this country and many foreign lands were represented in the first settlement of Two Rivers township.

#### VILLAGE OF BOWLUS.

Bowlus is one of two villages within Two Rivers township. Its population in 1915 was reported as being one hundred and sixty-five. It is a station point on the Soo railroad and is situated in section 12. Its business interests serve well the immediate needs of the farming community surrounding it.



It still retains a postoffice, notwithstanding the numerous rural free delivery routes which have in recent years been established.

The other hamlet is North Prairie in section 20, which is smaller than Bowlus.

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#### SWAN RIVER TOWNSHIP.

Swan River township is in the southwestern part of Morrison county, north from Two Rivers and Elmdale townships, and comprises township 128, range 30 and a fraction of 29, along the west bank of the Mississippi river. It at one date included the present domain of Two Rivers, except a strip two miles wide at the north which was detached from Little Falls. It took its name from a stream of that name within its borders, which stream is the outlet of Swan Lake, which water sheet was named by the Chippewas, "Wabazu Zagiagun," the first word meaning "Swan" in Indian dialect. The United States census gave the population in 1910 as being one thousand two hundred and twenty-five.

Legally the township dates its history from December, 1874, when the county commissioners, in response to a petition of the qualified voters of the district, ordered a township set off and an election held the January following, at which officers were chosen as follow: F. X. Ladoux, Hans C. Hanson and Milton Cahorn, supervisors; H. S. Clyde, clerk; F. S. Flint and J. Mason, justices of the peace; an assessor was not elected until later in the year in the person of F. S. Flint; and also a treasurer, which position was first held by Henry Coe.

#### PIONEER SETTLEMENT.

Swan River had for its first settler, George Rice, who located in section 2, in 1856, and Hiram Sanders took a claim in section 8, in the same year. In 1857 came Samuel Lee, later of Little Falls, who located in section 8. It is thought there were several transient settlers prior to any of these dates, but none who made permanent homes for themselves. The opposite side of the Mississippi had been settled as early as 1849. It was stated in 1881 that the oldest living settler was James Green, a native of Somersetshire, England, who came to Minnesota in 1855, locating at Little Falls, but removing to Swan River township in 1858. He served in the Union cause during the Civil War.

Henry Meyers located here in 1865, taking a homestead in section 8. He was a native of New York, born in 1811, served in the Seminole War, came

to Minnesota in 1838, and for three years was a soldier in the Civil War. Robert Lewis, of Pennsylvania, born in 1822, arrived in Minnesota in 1855, and came to Swan River township in the autumn of 1865. Charles Gilpatrick, born in Maine, came to Minnesota in 1865, having served in the Civil War three years.

The first birth here was in the family of Samuel Lee, on July 2, 1859. The child was named George Silas Lee. He was later in company with his father in the milling enterprise at the old Village of Swan River, near Little Falls.

Among those owning lands and residing in this township in the early eighties were these: Oscar L. Clyde, of Mercer county, Pennsylvania; Henry S. Clyde, of the same place; Dura Corbin, of Chautauqua, New York; James Green, of English birth; John Hamlin, one of the organizers of the township; Robert Lewis, of Beaver county, Pennsylvania; Charles W. Lakin and George W. Muncy, of Maine; N. M. O'Donnell, of Ireland; Levi T. Smith, of Johnson county, Iowa; Henry Vanzile, of New York state.

Being so near to Little Falls city there are no villages within Swan River township, except the hamlet of Ledoux, in the north part. Its interests are identical with that of Little Falls township.

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#### PARKER TOWNSHIP.

The central township in Morrison county, along the western line, is known as Parker. It constitutes congressional township 130, range 31. It was detached from old Grand Prairie township in 1880. It was named for its first settler, G. F. Parker. Its population in 1910 was four hundred and seventy-nine. The surface is gently rolling, and was originally covered with a dense growth of excellent timber, mostly of the hardwood varieties, yet a fair growth of stately pine trees. The soil is clay and black loam. It is drained and watered by the South fork of Little Elk river, along which stream and branches may be found extensive tracts of marsh lands or wild meadow. There are numerous small lakes within the territory, most of which are stocked with excellent fish. In 1880 there were already thirty homesteads taken up and being improved by sturdy husbandmen.

## ORGANIZATION.

Parker was organized in the spring of 1880, when a town meeting was held at the cabin home of J. W. Manbeck, in section 26, at which time and place the following were elected township officers: R. W. Jones (chairman), H. A. McCrary, and a Mr. Snow, supervisors; J. W. Manbeck, clerk; J. W. Jones, assessor; G. F. Parker (for whom the township was named), treasurer.

The gentlemen just named constituted about all the settlers at the time of the organization of the township. The founder, George F. Parker, was a native of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where he was born in 1846. He served as a soldier in the Civil War, one year in the Forty-second Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and nineteen months in the Second Massachusetts Cavalry, five months of which he spent in Andersonville prison, Georgia.

Other prominent and early pioneers here were: Windsor L. Boyce, of York state; D. M. Brooks, of Kentucky; James W. Manbeck, one of the organizers of the township, from Harrison county, Ohio; and Henry A. McCrary, of Gibson county, Indiana.

The first school district was formed in the spring of 1881, when a small school house was erected in section 22, in which Mrs. Aaron Boyce had the distinction of being the first teacher. A postoffice was established in 1880, in section 14, with D. M. Brooks as postmaster. Mail was received via Little Falls. The earliest birth here was Hattie Jones, April 14, 1880.

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SCANDIA VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

Scandia Valley township was organized as the result of a petition presented the commissioners and granted by that body in October, 1893, and constitutes township 132, range 31. Its population in 1910 was one hundred and fifty-eight. Its early settlers were included in the list given for Motley and adjoining townships, at present constituted. There are no towns or villages within this township, except the hamlet of Lincoln, near Fish Trap lake.

## NATURAL FEATURES.

The surface of Scandia Valley township is undulating, mostly timbered and has excellent pine land. There is also some of the finest hardwood timber

to be found in Minnesota. Wild meadow, light brush land—almost prairie—make up the balance. The soil is mixed and varied owing to location. On the uplands, the several grades of sandy loam, with occasional tracts of clay loam, are found. It is an excellent agricultural district for Morrison county.

Lake Alexander is in the south-central portion, and it is a beautiful sheet of water; among the most charming of all the many thousands of lakes within the borders of Minnesota. It is six miles long, and from one to three miles wide. Its shores and timber skirts have long attracted the hunter and fisher, for here they get game and fish to their heart's content. Northwest of this is Fish Trap lake, a smaller body of water, and north of this is still another lakelet known as Black Bass lake, but known to the Indians as Lost Alexander.

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#### ELMDALE TOWNSHIP.

Elmdale township is the extreme southwestern township in Morrison county. It comprises all of congressional township 127, range 31, and half of range 30. The surface of this portion of Morrison county was originally, and is yet to a large extent, covered with excellent timber, with an occasional patch of brush and prairie land. The soil is of a rich, dark loam. Two Rivers, that beautiful stream, meanders through this section of the county on its way to the great Father of Waters. Along the stream are found many fine native meadows.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Elmdale was a part of Two Rivers township until 1881, when it became a separate civil division of the county. The organization was effected on April 11, when these were elected township officers: Joseph Thomas, Benedict Thompson and Andrew Ferrell, supervisors; J. J. Jacobson, clerk; J. H. Mitchell, treasurer; M. P. Hansen, assessor; F. F. Thornberry and J. N. Ferrell, justices of the peace. The schools and churches are mentioned in special chapters on these topics.

The "settlement" is not fully known to present residents—many are the changes wrought out in forty or fifty years in this portion of the county. It is known that a few had settled here before the Civil War, but just who they were and where they located it is not easy today to ascertain. In 1880 the oldest living settler was known to be William Boyle, who made his claim in

1865, in section 8, but later removed to section 17. Peter Hansen came in the same season, locating in section 8. Andrew Ferrell located in section 24 in 1870, and was succeeded by John Buckley and J. J. Jacobson. Other settlers were those already mentioned as having been elected as township officers when the organization was completed in 1881. Another hardy pioneer here was Knud Hans Gunderson, a Danish settler, born in 1841, located at St. Cloud in 1867 and in Elmdale township in 1871. He bought a farm in section 8, and in 1878 put a stock of goods on sale in his residence and later in a store building.

The population of Elmdale township in 1910 was, according to the United States census returns, one thousand five hundred and seventy-four. There is a small trading point known as Elmdale in this township. It is situated in the northeast corner of the township. The village of Upsala is in section 18, and is a convenient trading point.

#### THE 1915 INTERESTS AT UPSALA.

The following business and professional interests obtained at the village of Upsala in the month of August, 1915: Farmers State Bank, A. M. Borgstrom, cashier; creamery, Peter Viehouser, butter-maker; Elmdale Telephone Company, Mrs. A. M. Borgstrom, operator; lumber and furniture dealers, J. S. Borgstrom; dry goods stores, Charles Swedback, Reuben Erickson; grocery, Henry Hedin, C. J. Erickson, Alf Pehrson; confectionery and millinery, Mrs. A. M. Borgstrom; blacksmithing, Alexander Bergman; feed mill, Alex Schultz; meat market, George Schultz; garage, Erick C. Anderson; implement and harness shop, Anderson & Erickson.

The present churches at Upsala are the Swedish Lutheran, with Rev. P. S. Miller, pastor; the Swedish Mission, with Rev. John Peterson in charge; and the Baptist church, which has no pastor at this time.

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#### GREEN PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

Green Prairie township comprises a part of township 130, in range 29, and at one time contained three full and a fractional congressional townships, but at present contains only about fifteen sections of land along the west bank of the Mississippi river, north from Little Falls city. It was named for its

first settler, Charles H. Green, a native of Glens Falls, New York, who came here in 1855, settling in section 5. At the time of the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Third Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. In the awful fight at Murfreesboro, while defending the colors, after the surrender of his regiment, he was struck by sixteen Rebel bullets and pierced by a bayonet.

In June, 1855, George G. Kimball became the second settler; he located near Green's place. He was from Maine and was also a soldier in the Rebellion, enlisting in 1861. He never returned to his claim, but located in Belle Prairie township.

William Rasicot settled in section 32, of what was then Green Prairie, in May, 1857. He went to the war and served as a gallant soldier, returned and took up a homestead in the autumn of 1865. There were several other settlers, but all went to the war or removed about war days and never returned. The cabins they deserted were found and some of them occupied by newer immigrants.

The first school was taught in this township in 1867 by Miss Mary Denny; this was in a rude, frame building, built by subscription, in section 17.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Green Prairie township was organized in the spring of 1868, and then embraced all of Morrison county lying west of the Mississippi river and north of township 129. It had formerly been a part of Belle Prairie township. In 1879 all that part lying north of township 131 was organized as Motley township, and in the spring of 1880 Green Prairie was reduced to its present limits, Parker township being the last territory taken from it. The churches and schools of this territory are treated in separate chapters.

Green Prairie postoffice was established about 1869, with Martin Hall as postmaster. Mail was obtained once a week from Ft. Ripley, and after the abandonment of that military post, mail was received from Little Falls office semi-weekly.

In the present and former territory of this township quite early settlers included these: Ephraim Bates, of New York; John Denny, of England; August H. Dorman, a German; ex-Sergeant Edward Davis, of South Wales; James Finney, Martin Hall, of New York; Rufus Henderson, of Canada; Moses Miner, of Michigan; John Pennock, of Bradford, Pennsylvania; William Rasicot, a Canadian; George Swindell, an Englishman; and Gilbert T. Smith, of New York state.

The present township of Green Prairie had a population in 1910 of two hundred and twenty-six. It is well developed, and while its territory is small it has many beautiful farm homes and a contented, happy people.

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#### CULDRUM TOWNSHIP.

The third township from the south and the fourth from the north line of Morrison county is known as Culdrum. It was cut off from Little Falls township in 1870 and then extended to the county line on the west, but since then Pike Creek has been taken from its eastern portion. As now constituted it comprises simply congressional township 129, range 31 west, hence is six miles square. Its first township election was held on June 2, 1870, when officers were elected as follow: Daniel Campbell, W. W. Bain, and William Krueger, supervisors; W. W. Bain, clerk; John Workman, treasurer; William Rhoda, assessor; W. W. Bain, justice of the peace.

The first school was taught in 1868, by Mrs. Edna A. Barnard in a small log building.

Early settlers included these: William W. Bain; Nazair Blais, a Canadian; Fred Henry Billings, of Wisconsin; Daniel H. Campbell, of Ireland; Martin Kinney, an Irishman; John Kinney, an Irishman; Frederick Muskey, a native of Germany; William Rhoda, a native of Berlin, Germany; and John Wendt. The first settler was J. C. Stebbins, in 1859. The next year came John Shanks. The war caused the settlement to be suspended.

The population of Culdrum township in 1910 was eight hundred and sixty-eight.

The southwestern branch of the Northern Pacific railroad runs through the southern part of the township, with a station point named Flensburg, situated in sections 31 and 36 and sections 23 and 24. It is merely a hamlet station point, having less than fifty inhabitants.

It may be added that after the Civil War ended a new settlement sprung up in which William Rhoda was first, and he was followed by D. H. Campbell, John Workman and W. W. Bain.

#### RIPLEY TOWNSHIP—OLD FT. RIPLEY.

The name of Ft. Ripley was originally Ft. Gaines, and it was located on the Mississippi river, in the northern part of what is now Crow Wing

county, but because of its nearness to Ripley township and its intimate associations in days gone by, it will here be mentioned as a part of the annals of Morrison county. In fact, a part of the government reservation was within Ripley township, and consisted of over fifteen hundred acres of land and two miles of river front. It was established in 1849, and used as a military post of the United States government until July, 1878. Just above the fort, proper, a ferry was established by the government with eight hundred feet of strong cable, at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. When the fort was abandoned, this was sold to D. S. Moore, and was subsequently operated by him. The original barracks were built of logs, many of which were in existence in the nineties, and possibly some are still to be found, though greatly decayed by age and exposure to the elements.

The later buildings, those in use until its abandonment, were three double sets of officers' quarters, one large hospital erected at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars, barracks to accommodate two full companies, a bakery, powder magazine, three blockhouses with the necessary portholes for cannon and musketry, bathhouses, carpenter and blacksmiths shops, guardhouse, warehouses, two sets of laundress quarters, wagon shed and stables for thirty mules, twelve horses, four oxen, and officers' horses. Several buildings were destroyed by fire in 1876. Another fire occurred in June, 1868, when Ordnance Sergeant Frantzkee with his four children perished in the flames. His wife escaped only to live a hopeless lunatic.

A cemetery was laid out an early date and enclosed with a high picket fence. Private Burns was the first to be laid to rest in that sacred enclosure. In all, up to 1880, there had been buried there fifty-two bodies, including soldiers and members of their families. Many of these were subsequently removed to the National cemetery at Rock Island, Illinois, with those of other abandoned military posts.

When the post was finally abandoned ex-Sergeant Davis was given charge of the place, to prevent pillage of property. In the "olden days," there were many happy gatherings at the fort, citizens from other points joining with officers and soldiers in social dances and general merrymaking. A library was also maintained, and theatres held frequently, and thus many a long winter night was spent on the wild frontier.



## LATER TOWNSHIPS OF THE COUNTY.

At present there are thirty-one civil townships in Morrison county, many of which are not very well settled and have but little routine history, such as their organization and a few points worthy of preservation in the present-day annals of the county. Others have been treated as being settled and as a part of some one or more of the older townships in the county, hence will necessarily be much shorter than those heretofore mentioned. The subjoined include such townships.

## AGRAM TOWNSHIP.

Agram township is just to the east of Little Falls, and is a part of congressional township 40, range 31. The Soo railroad line runs in a diagonal course through its territory from southwest to northeast. It has no towns or villages and trades at both Pierz and the city of Little Falls. It was originally a part of Little Falls township, also of Pierz. It was first known as Fish Lake township, but in July, 1886, the county commissioners changed its name to Agram. It had a population in 1910 of two hundred and ninety-two. Its surface is somewhat broken. Farming is the chief occupation and is carried on to a very high state.

## RAILS PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

Rails Prairie township was created by the commissioners on January 8, 1890, when its territory had only twenty-three voters. Its domain consists of township 132, range 30—thirty-six sections of land. The first election was held at the house of Case Rails, for whom the township was named. He resided on section 18, and this election was held on January 27, 1890. It is in the northwestern part of the county, with the Mississippi river for its eastern boundary, and is south of Rosing township, east of Scandia and north of Clough township. Its population in 1910 was two hundred and ninety-six. At one time it belonged to Motley township. It is without villages, and is a fairly good agricultural section, with much rough land and timber.

## CLOUGH TOWNSHIP.

Clough township, is situated on the western bank of the Mississippi river and comprises forty-two sections of land, in both ranges 29 and 30, in township 131. Motley once embraced this territory. Its population by the 1910 census was two hundred and seventy-two. It is void of towns, villages or railroads; is south of Rails Prairie township, north of Darling and east of Cushing township. It was organized in October, 1890. Its northern part, being close to old Ft. Ripley, in Crow Wing county, was settled quite early, but the pioneers were driven off or scared off by the Indian outbreak in 1862 and settlers did not come in then till long after the Civil War period.

## DARLING TOWNSHIP.

Darling township is congressional township 130, range 30, and was, until October, 1907, known as Randall township. It was originally made a township for civil and election purposes on January 7, 1891. In 1910 its population was five hundred and thirty-six. It is situated south of Clough, west of Green Prairie, north of Pike Creek and east of Parker township. The village of Darling in section 35, and Randall in section 4, are both station points on the Northern Pacific railroad. The latter has a population of two hundred. Elk river flows meanderingly through this township, emptying into the Mississippi just above Little Falls city. Just who first located within this part of Morrison county is now a disputed question, hence the historian will not undertake to decide.

## CUSHING TOWNSHIP.

Cushing township was created by act of the board of county commissioners on October 12, 1891. It comprises township 131, range 31. The first election was held at the house of G. W. Wilson, October 30, 1891. It is situated on the west border line of the county, with Todd county at the west, Clough township at the east, Scandia township on the north and Parker township at the south. The population in 1910 was three hundred and thirteen. The Northern Pacific railroad runs through this township diagonally from southeast to northwest, with a station at Cushing. The villages of Lincoln and Randall are the nearest trading places for its people. Its territory was once embraced in Motley township.

## MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP.

Mount Morris township was created by act of the board of county commissioners in March, 1897. It originally belonged to Little Falls or Pierz township. It is not yet well developed, has no towns or railroad facilities, and is not well located for profitable farming. It is situated in township 40, range 28 and contains thirty sections. The first township meeting was held at the house of G. W. Sisler, March 17, 1897. In 1910 its population was only fifty-four. It is bounded on the east by Mille Lacs county, on the south by Lakin township, on the west by Hillman township and on the north by Mille Lacs county and Leigh township of Morrison county.

## PULASKI TOWNSHIP.

Pulaski township comprises congressional township 42, range 28, and was originally a part of Ripley township, when that was a very large civil subdivision of this county. As now bounded, it is south of Crow Wing county, west of Richardson township, north of Granite township, and east of Platte township. The Platte river strikes its extreme northwestern corner. There are no towns within its borders, neither railroads. It was set off from Ripley in January, 1899, and the first township meeting was held at the home of John Harmoschinski. The population of the township in 1910 was one hundred and twenty-nine. Of its early settlement but little can now be learned.

## PLATTE TOWNSHIP.

Platte township was organized by act of the county commissioners in January, 1899, and comprises all of congressional township 42, range 30. On January 24, 1899, the first town meeting was held at the house of Charles Richner when township officers were elected. Platte is south from Crow Wing county line, west from Pulaski, north from Buh and east from Ripley township, and is six miles square. Platte river runs diagonally from northeast to southwest through its territory. There are no towns or railroads within the township. Its population in 1910 was two hundred and nine. The territory once belonged to that of Ripley.

## GRANITE TOWNSHIP.

Granite township was formed in July, 1902, and is congressional township 41, range 29, and contains thirty-six sections. It is south of Pulaski, west from Leigh, north from Hillman and Pierz and east from Buh township. Its population in 1910 was four hundred and seventy-eight. It is a well-settled farming district, with many good homes and a prosperous, contented population. Belle Prairie township once embraced this territory.

## ROISING TOWNSHIP.

Rosing township of Morrison county once belonged to the territory of what was styled Crow Wing township, which had been cut from Motley township, and organized on July 7, 1902. Its name was changed from Crow Wing to Rosing in September, 1902. Its population in 1910 was one hundred and forty-three. It is one of the smallest townships in Morrison county and is bounded on the north by the Mississippi river and the county line. It is a part of township 132, ranges 29 and 30, and contains about nineteen sections of land, with Rails Prairie township at its south and Motley township on its west. It is fairly well settled and improved by an industrious class of agriculturists. It is without towns or villages.

## HILMAN TOWNSHIP.

Hilman township comprises congressional township 40, range 29, and is bounded on the north by Granite and Leigh townships, on the east by Mt. Morris, on the south by Morrill and on the west by Pierz township. Its population in 1910 was only sixty-six, but has somewhat increased at this date. The Soo railroad line touches its northwest corner, but there is no station point within its territory. Pierz township formerly embraced this territory. It was organized into a separate township on July 7, 1902. It received the name of a pioneer of the county.

## LAKIN TOWNSHIP.

Lakin township was organized from part of the territory formerly embraced in Morrill township, and consists of the southeastern congressional township in Morrison county, township 39, range 28, and is six miles

square. The date of its organization was July 6, 1903. Its population in 1910 was only fifty-five, and is but little greater at this date. Buckman township once included its domain.

#### RICHARDSON TOWNSHIP.

Richardson township was named for Pioneer Nathaniel Richardson, but was once known as Peavy township after the great grain king and elevator man. It was organized on January 7, 1903. In 1910 its population was sixty. It is in the extreme northeast corner of Morrison county, and comprises all of congressional township 42, range 28. It has two small streams. There are no villages within its territory. Pulaski township is at its west, Leigh at its south.

#### LEIGH TOWNSHIP.

Leigh township was organized on January 29, 1908, the last of any in the county. It is situated on the east line of the county, south of Richardson, east of Granite and north of Mt. Morris and Hillman townships. The Soo railroad line runs through its southeastern part. In 1910 it had a population of fifty-four. Belle Prairie originally ran through to the east line of the county and included this domain. It comprises congressional township 41, range 28. The first township meeting was held on February 15, 1908, at Joseph Leigh's house and it derived its name from this family name. Hillman village is within this township, in section 28, on the Soo railroad line.

#### MORRILL TOWNSHIP.

Prior to 1888 Morrill township was organized from territory formerly belonging to Buckman township, but later was known as a part of what was then styled Oakwood township. It was cut off as Oakwood township by act of the board of county commissioners in the spring of 1881, and the town meeting was held at the school house in section 29, on April 11 of that year. The following officers were duly elected for the newly-made township of Oakwood: T. D. Miller, A. T. Sandy and C. D. Hunter, supervisors; John F. Hunter, clerk; J. Miller, assessor; George Ferguson, treasurer; Henry McNeal, justice of the peace; A. Miller, constable.

The first settler in this township was John Roach, who came in September, 1874, locating in section 32, and there remained until 1881, then removed to Benton county. H. Soudie, of Pennsylvania, settled in section 32 in 1876, and was still here in 1882. Other pioneers here were T. D. Miller, C. D. Hunter, J. Miller, L. and J. Soudie.

The first school district was established in 1877, and a building erected the year following in section 29. A Sabbath school was formed in September, 1879, by J. Stewart. The first death was Maud Racliff, July 7, 1881. The first marriage was on May 22, 1881, when John Hunter married Lonella Soudie.

This civil township became known as Morrill township about 1885, and extended to the east line of the county, embracing what is now Lakin township, in the southeastern corner of the county, but in 1903 it was divided again and Lakin township was cut off to the east, leaving Morrill township to constitute its present bounds—township 39, range 29. It is hence cut to six miles square and contains thirty-six sections. It is south of Hillman, east of Buckman, and west of Lakin townships.

Its population in 1910 was three hundred and fifty. It is without town, village or railroad station. In the last few years it has increased in farms and is fast coming to the front as one of the subdivisions of Morrison county.

#### PIKE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

In the beginning of the county's history (1856) what is now styled Pike Creek township, was a part of Little Falls township, running to the Mississippi river from the west line of the county. In 1870 it was divided and that portion to the east of the line between ranges 30 and 31 was made into a new township known as Culdrum, and this obtained until the new township of Pike Creek was formed about 1880, since which time another slight change was made when the city of Little Falls was about to be incorporated. Pike Creek now comprises township 129, range 30, and is six miles square. It is south of Darling, west of Little Falls, north of Swan River and east of Culdrum townships. Its population in 1890 was eight hundred and nine; in 1900 it was one thousand three hundred and sixty-one and in 1910 had increased only to one thousand three hundred and ninety-five.

## BUH TOWNSHIP.

Buh township is one of the central townships of Morrison county, and is bounded on the north by Platte, on the east by Granite, on the south by Pierz and Agram and on the west by Belle Prairie townships. It comprises Congressional township 41, range 30, and is six miles square. Platte river runs through its territory from north to south, bearing to the west. A small portion of the village of Pierz is along the southern border line. Its population in 1910 was seven hundred and thirteen. It contains many beautiful and valuable farm homes. It was named in honor of a saintly old Catholic priest of former days in this county. It was organized as a separate township in July, 1895, having belonged to Belle Prairie at one time.

## VILLAGE OF LASTRUP.

Lastrup is a postoffice point established in 1898 in Buh township, on the line of Granite. The first postmaster was William Hoheisel. The first mail carrier was Archie Decent. The office was kept at the Henry Stroeing farm house. In 1900 Theodore Ortmann became postmaster and the office was moved to where the blacksmith shop was located. In the autumn of 1900 the Lastrup Catholic church was formed with Rev. J. J. Meyer as its first pastor. Services were held in what is now the Kingen residence. In 1901 work was begun on the present church and the outside work was completed by Christmas day. In 1902 the present priest's house was erected. In 1903 Vincent Dombovy built the first blacksmith shop. In 1908 the first licensed saloon was opened by F. X. Steger, Sr. In 1909 the co-operative creamery building was built. At present the place is assuming considerable enterprise. This village is situated six miles to the northeast of the village of Pierz. The Lastrup Farmers' Creamery Company was organized in March, 1915. The first officers were Joseph Partner, president; Mike Braun, vice-president; Joseph Schubut, Peter Weidenbach, S. D. Wood, directors; Ed. Stuckmeyer, treasurer, and Theodore Ortmann, secretary. The first general store was opened by Brinkman Brothers in 1901; they sold to Joseph Blake three years later, who in turn sold to Gross Brothers in 1912. The village blacksmith is now Casper Thomme.

## SWANVILLE TOWNSHIP.

The second township from the southern line of the county and on the west line is Swanville, originally a part of Swan River township. It was formed into a separate civil precinct of the county on October 12, 1892, and comprises all of congressional township 128, range 31. Its population in 1910 was eight hundred and twenty-six. It is north of Elmdale and west of Swan River townships. This township, with Elmdale and part of Cudrum townships, constitute one of the finest agricultural sections in Morrison county. The lands have long since been taken up and utilized after modern methods in farming industries. This six-mile-square tract is indeed a garden spot in many ways. The village of Swanville is in section 7 and is a station point on the branch or division of the Northern Pacific which runs southwest from Little Falls. Swanville has a population of about four hundred and is well represented by almost all branches of town business enterprises.

## VILLAGE OF SWANVILLE.

Swanville was incorporated in 1893 and now has electric lights furnished by a private corporation, giving both day and night service. The plant consists of a small dynamo run by a gasoline engine, and storage batteries are employed in the production of electricity.

The business interests of Swanville in the summer of 1915 are as follows: There are two State banks, The First State Bank and the Peoples State Bank. There are five general merchandise stores, Lee Biteman & Company, J. B. Stith & Sons, B. B. Cox, Fred Muske, and J. P. Galles; drug store, E. L. Kaliher; one physician, Dr. I. G. Wiltiont; meat market, B. H. Milhath; two restaurants, Mrs. J. Cofield, Lee Biteman & Company; implement dealers, William Trampe; garage, Albert Milke & Son; hotel, W. H. Cox; three saloons; two hardware stores, Swanville Hardware Company, E. A. Villerock; livery, Henry Hall; feed and flour-mills, also saw-mill, Koenig & Meschke; elevators, Monarch Elevator Company and Farmers' Co-operative Company; two blacksmiths, H. Kennke and Otto Kreuger; two cream stations; one feed store, F. E. Wilmot; two barber shops; a shoe shop and jewelry repair shop, William Raffensparger; billiard hall, E. C. Memrell; two dray lines, John Kasper and Harry Hall.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### CITY OF LITTLE FALLS.

Little Falls was made the seat of justice of Morrison county by the organizing act approved on February 25, 1856. It is situated on both sides of the Mississippi river in range 32 and townships 40 and 41. It is about six miles to the west of the center of the county, and is on the Northern Pacific railroad, which was completed through the city in the autumn of 1877, from St. Paul to Motley, where it intersects the main line from Duluth to the Pacific coast, which line was built as far as Motley in 1872. Another division of the system extends from the city to Brainerd; this line was completed in 1880-81; another from Little Falls west, known as the old Little Falls & Dakota, was completed in 1880, the first dirt being thrown on June 25, 1880. Thus it will be observed that railway facilities are excellent in Little Falls.

Little Falls is known far and near as a great pine lumber manufacturing city—indeed, this is its principal industry.

The town was surveyed in 1855, by S. M. Putnam, but not incorporated.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

It appears from all that can be learned by the historian of today that James Green was the first permanent settler in this township. He took a squatter's claim on the east bank of the Mississippi river, at the site of the present city, in 1848—sixty-seven years ago. He built a saw-mill and secured water-power by building a wing dam to the island above, making a "head" of something over three feet, which was sufficient to propel his mill machinery. He also constructed a boom by fastening one end to the west bank of the river, near Little Falls ferry landing, and the other at the head of the island below, and thus managed to run most of the logs into the mill pond. This was in the fall of 1849. Soon after this Green died, when H. M. Rice and Captain Todd purchased the mill. They sold to William Sturgis in 1850, or thereabouts. He ran the mill until 1854, then sold a two-thirds

interest to James Fergus (for whom Fergus Falls was later named), and Calvin A. Tuttle, who formed a company known as the Little Falls Company.

The lands on the east side of the river were surveyed in 1852. Prior to this, John M. Kidder, father-in-law of Sturgis, had filed a pre-emption claim covering that portion of the east bank of the Mississippi river, including the water-power. The Little Falls Company purchased the land included in the said Kidder claim, of Mr. Sturgis, he having bought it from the heirs of John M. Kidder, deceased, who died before the land came into market, so that the Little Falls Company purchased the land from the government at the first land sale, in November, 1855. This purchase included the Kidder claim and the land adjoining the village of Little Falls and that upon which it was located later, amounting in all to about two thousand acres. This company continued but a short time, then merged into a joint-stock company, in the autumn of 1855, known as the Little Falls Manufacturing Company. The newly formed corporation issued stock to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, Fergus, Sturgis and Tuttle taking a half interest and the remainder readily sold for fifty thousand dollars cash. This stock rapidly advanced, until it reached two hundred and fifty per cent., at which price most of the shares changed hands. About seventy-five thousand dollars was expended in improvements of the water-power kind, and in building a dam, bridge and mills. While the manufacturing company had plenty of money they spent it freely and indiscriminately.

It is said that in constructing the dam on the east side of the island, the water was first shut off by a "horse dam," and sand and gravel were hauled in to the depth of from two to three feet, to make a level bed on which to place the frame of the principal dam. The bed of the river was rocky and uneven, well fitted to hold the foot of a substantial dam, but some of its constructors thought a smooth sand bed preferable, and hence it was so constructed. In connection with this dam, this company built a fine Howe truss bridge. It was made in the winter of 1857-58, and the main portion stood for many years. After about nine years it was found to be rotting, when the board of county commissioners had it repaired, but soon after this it was blown down and never rebuilt. It was later used in constructing the bridge at Sauk Rapids.

This company also constructed a large saw-mill and a large two-and-one-half-story cabinet shop. Mr. Fletcher built a commodious flouring-mill, which was also run by water-power. The dam was broken in 1859, and no one had the courage to rebuild it, and Mr. Fletcher removed his flouring-

mill plant to Sauk river. The dam was, however, repaired in the winter of 1859-60, but during the following summer a sudden rise in the Mississippi destroyed dam and saw-mill, as well as the large cabinet shop, so there was nothing to show for the large investment. Hence it was that the stock once so high priced depreciated until in 1860 it was practically worthless, and the company's property was insufficient to meet their obligations and it failed. Thus the water-power and first milling industry at Little Falls commenced its eventful history. Taking up other parts of the city's history for a time, later on the reader will see what has been accomplished by modern methods and modern minds, backed with capital.

#### SALE OF TOWN LOTS.

Immediately after the town was platted, in 1855, a few lots were given away, after which lots sold rapidly, some in the best locations bringing as high as one thousand dollars each, while land near town brought one hundred dollars an acre. But with the advent of the year 1860, and the milling company's failure, the population soon decreased, and the stock of the milling company went down very low. What was known as Mill Island, at the date of the construction of the dam, was cut across by a ditch, and the annual high water and floods of the Mississippi plowed its way through, making a wide channel. With the passage of about a decade, property began looking up again, and at no time since about 1875 has there been a decline, but, on the contrary, things have kept abreast with the times, and today there is no better business and manufacturing point than Little Falls, Minnesota, with its great lumbering and paper-mill industries.

#### MURDER OF A GERMAN PEDDLER.

Three Indians under arrest in 1857 for the murder of an innocent German peddler, on the road near Gull Lake, were taken from the sheriff—Mr. Pugh—while en route for St. Paul, and summarily disposed of by a party under the leadership of Anson Northrup and Benjamin Brown, both of whom then resided in this section. The sheriff's party was overtaken near the site of the present Royalton, and the Indians, taken back to the southern border of the prairie south from Little Falls village and still chained together, hung to a pole supported by two trees. They had on the way back confessed their crime, and made no attempt to resist. Considerable alarm was

created among the white settlers, in fear that there might be an Indian uprising over the affair, but the excitement soon died away and nothing ever came of the matter.

It was this Anson Northrup who built a saw-mill at Swan river in 1856, and operated it two years.

#### SIoux MASSACRE AT LITTLE FALLS.

Pioneer Nicholson, already mentioned, is the authority for the statement that during the first settlement of Little Falls, a small party of friendly Chippewas was camping on the island near the village, and not anticipating any evil, were enjoying their repose, when a band of Sioux noiselessly crossed the river channel under cover of darkness, stole in upon the sleepers and killed and scalped the entire party, except a young Indian girl, who swam the river and secreted herself in a stable, where she was found the next morning, pierced through with an arrow. She was well known to the villagers and a universal favorite, but refused the hospitality offered, as well as the medical attendance urged, saying she did not want to live, as her friends were all dead. She bore her pain with that silent stoicism characteristic of her race, until death sealed her passport to the happy hunting grounds of her kindred.

#### LITTLE FALLS WAR.

In the first years of the settlement of Little Falls and Morrison county, this section became the stopping place or retreat of a lawless set of persons—genuine renegades—who, in hard times, finding gambling unprofitable, resorted to robbery and other criminal acts. They finally, having become enraged at repeated arrests and severe punishments, attempted the life of R. L. Barnum, the faithful old justice of the peace, whom they had learned to dread. One night in October, 1858, a part of this outlaw band visited the old man's cabin home, dragged him out, and, after violent treatment and abuse, left him for dead. He recovered, however, but this crowning outrage led to a general uprising among the loyal, true citizens of the county, and resulted in the banishment from the community of this much-to-be-dreaded gang. This difficulty was in later years, and even to this date, alluded to by many as "The Little Falls War."

## MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Little Falls was incorporated by a bill approved on February 25, 1879, with the following described boundaries: "Sections 7 and 8 and the north half of sections 17 and 18, township 40, range 32, and lot 3, in section 34, township 41, range 32; and lots 1, 2 and 3, in section 17, and the east half of the northeast quarter of section 18, and the east half of section 19, township 29, range 29."

The first election was held at the court house on March 18, 1879, when the following officers were elected: President, Leon Houde; trustee, Peter Medved; recorder, A. O. Churchill; treasurer, John Wetzel; justice of the peace, James McCauley. On March 21 the officers held their first meeting, several ordinances were passed, and Jerry Root was appointed marshal.

The presidents of the village of Little Falls from the date of its organization to date of its becoming a city were as follow: Leon Houde, 1879; W. T. Lambert, 1880; Leon Houde, 1881 to 1883; Peter Medvel, from 1883 to 1886; L. E. Richard, 1886; J. Simmons, 1887-1888; Fred Hoffman, 1889; Dr. G. M. A. Fortier, from March, 1889, to July, 1890, when the city was incorporated and the presiding official became known as mayor.

The mayors of Little Falls have been as follow: Nathan Richardson, 1890 to 1894; Isaac E. Staples, 1894; Andrew D. Davidson, 1895; Nathan Richardson, 1896; Alfred Tanner, 1897; Charles E. Vasaly, 1898 to 1900; J. A. Nichols, 1900; Nathan Richardson, 1901; C. E. Vasalay, 1902 to 1906; N. W. Chance, 1906 to 1907; George Moeglein, 1907 to 1912; Simon P. Brick, 1912; F. C. Johnson, 1913; Dr. G. M. A. Fortier, 1914 and still in office in August, 1915.

The city officers at present (1915) are as follow: Mayor, Dr. G. M. A. Fortier; clerk, Victor Schallern; treasurer, John Vertin; assessor, Frank Ellenbecker; municipal judge, F. W. Lyon; justices of the peace, Phil S. Randall and William C. Turner. Aldermen: First ward, F. E. Hall, president of council; M. B. Blake, second ward; H. W. Venners and J. S. Murphy, third ward; George H. Johnson and Henry Peterson, fourth ward; D. J. Bell and H. J. Lafond, aldermen-at-large; G. F. Moeglein, vice-president; city attorney, D. M. Cameron; street commissioner, Isaac Lafond; health officer, C. F. Holst, M. D.; chief of the fire department, G. W. Emdler; chief of police, William Hang; board of public works, S. C. Vasaly, G. H. Enke and Joseph Masog.

A city building was erected in 1890, on First avenue south, and it con-

tains all city offices and the fire department, with that of police. The police department consists of five members, including a chief, for seven months of the year, and four for five months.

The city obtains its supply of water from the Little Falls Water Power Company. They have eighty-two hydrants, costing the city for water four hundred and seventy-nine dollars per month. The city also purchases its street lights from the same company and pays at present four hundred and eighty-seven dollars for the eighty-six one-hundred-watt street lamps and ninety ornamental lighting posts, per month.

The fire department is a volunteer company and has only two paid members. They have ample hook-and-ladder and other equipments, including a modern automobile fire apparatus, all of which makes the city comparatively secure from the fire fiend's work.

The city has a bonded debt of one hundred and sixteen thousand dollars, running in twenty-year bonds and drawing four and one-half and five per cent. interest.

#### POSTOFFICE HISTORY.

The history of the Little Falls postoffice for the first two decades is not well preserved, and the author was unable to secure proper data from the department at Washington, hence it cannot be inserted here. The present obliging postmaster, Simon P. Brick, furnishes the following facts concerning the office since 1883—near a third of a century ago.

The postoffice has been in its present quarters since July 20, 1909, and previous to that it was kept by postmaster Nathan Richardson in a building near the corner of First street and First avenue, northeast (in the eighties), in a building known as the "Old Fort" and later at the Richardson building. The building was later burned. Then it was kept in a small wooden building on ground now occupied by the present office, during which time L. G. Worthington was postmaster. It was moved by Postmaster John Wetzel to the opposite side of the street into a small frame building prepared by him and Postmaster Fuller moved the same to a small frame building on Broadway and soon thereafter to the one-story solid brick building built alongside the frame structure. The frame building was destroyed by fire and the brick building was but recently torn down to make room for the new brick building now being erected by the German-American Bank and John Vertin. Postmaster Medved moved the office to a room in the Buckman Hotel, next to the City Hall, but later it was removed to the Rhodes' building adjoining the building on the north. Owing to the establishing of

the rural delivery system, it was moved to the building on the north which was larger and much needed owing to the growth of the office service at Little Falls. The next location was in July, 1909, when it moved into the present quarters.

A site has already been purchased and survey made and plans for a new government postoffice are being prepared by the department at Washington, D. C. The contract will likely be let so the construction can begin during this autumn or early next spring.

Since 1883 the postmasters have been as follow:

Nathan Richardson held the office many years prior to 1883.

Lewis G. Worthington, April 1, 1883, to September 5, 1885.

John Wetzel, September 6, 1885, to October 31, 1889.

Wheaton M. Fuller, November 1, 1889, to October 31, 1893.

Peter Medved, November 1, 1893, to October 31, 1897.

Dura Corbin, November 1, 1897, to February 9, 1902.

Wheaton M. Fuller, February 10, 1902, to September 30, 1908.

Clara K. Fuller, October 1, 1908, to August 1, 1913.

Simon P. Brick, September 1, 1913, to present date.

Free delivery in the city was secured on May 1, 1904. The office became a second-class office on July 1, 1898. The last fiscal year the business (not including money orders) amounted to sixteen thousand eight hundred and eleven dollars and twenty-four cents, the year ending July 1, 1915. The present amount of deposits in the savings department is two thousand eight hundred and ninety-one dollars.

The city carriers are Byron G. Bradley, Constantine T. Droskowaski, Benjamin F. Griffith and Lloyd M. Kay. There are eight rural carriers, Preston J. Manbeek, Everett A. Savage, Samuel Longfellow, John E. Richey, Peter H. Holum, Howard Hovey, Reuben S. Beymer and John F. McNally. The present office force is as follows: Postmaster, Simon P. Brick; assistant postmaster, Ethen S. Brown; clerks, George F. Cornwell, Irvin E. Cornwell, Olaf E. Peterson and Christian P. Vernig; substitute clerk, Ernest L. Gatchell.

#### THE WHITE WAY.

"The White Way" is the name given to that portion of the city illuminated brilliantly by a cluster of five lights, two hundred and eighty-watt Mazda lamps, eight in a block, for fifteen blocks. These lights are attached to ornamental iron standards. This system turns night into day and gives

the city a most beautiful appearance at night time. When this system was completed on October 25, 1913, the occasion was celebrated with red lights, marching clubs, eight bands of music, floats, industrial displays, visiting guests in automobiles; while Governor Eberhart and other noted men of the state delivered orations on the progressiveness of Little Falls.

#### PINE GROVE PARK.

This is one of Nature's wonder spots and handsome retreats for the citizens and visitors of Little Falls. It is a fifty-seven-acre tract of white pine timber, only three-fourths of a mile out of the city, on the west side of the Mississippi river. This grove has been left as it was handed down by the Creator of all native forests, in all of its beauty and sublimity. Rustic seats of iron and wood are found here and there throughout the park. There is already quite a collection of wild animals within a wire enclosure. This park was the generous gift of C. A. Weyerhauser, M. M. Williams, A. R. Davidson, R. D. Musser and others, and will ever remain a monument to these gentlemen. It cannot fail of being appreciated as the years roll by, and Minnesota forests have all disappeared.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY.

One of the indexes of prosperity and intelligence among the citizens of Little Falls is its interest in literary matters and the organization and maintenance of a public library. The history of this institution dates back to February, 1892, when Mrs. M. M. Williams, realizing the great need of a library, conceived and carried out the plan of raising a sufficient amount of money for the purchasing of the same by popular subscription. She set about by first heading the paper with a liberal amount herself, then visited the business men and others of the city and was gladly aided by most all of them in her laudable undertaking; one thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars and fifty cents being the sum pledged, the same to be forthcoming as soon as one thousand dollars was raised, or rather subscribed, at which time all subscriptions were made payable. Subscribers were notified through the local newspapers to meet for the purpose of forming a library association, and for the preliminary steps toward securing and opening a public library.

The first meeting was held on August 15, 1892, in the rooms of the



Itasca Club. Committees were chosen for the purpose of selecting books and a place for keeping the same. A motion was made by W. M. Fuller, seconded by A. R. Davidson, that Rev. A. A. Joss act as chairman of the meeting, which was carried and he took his seat. The secretary for the meeting was G. W. Massey. M. M. Williams moved that the chair appoint a committee of seven, of which Mrs. A. A. Joss should be one, who should be authorized to act for the subscribers in organizing an association. The chair then appointed the following as such committee: A. R. Davidson, Mrs. M. M. Williams, Mrs. Joss, Miss Sadie Fuller, C. A. Lindbergh, J. H. Rhodes and John A. Burkey.

The next meeting was on August 22, 1892, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the directors' room of the First National Bank. This was called for the purpose of electing permanent officers of the association. Mrs. M. M. Williams was elected as president and Miss Sadie Fuller as secretary and treasurer. The city was then divided into three districts and a committee of two appointed (one lady on each committee) whose duty should be to solicit from house to house and get lists of books. Another committee was selected to prepare by-laws for the newly-formed association. This committee was composed of C. A. Lindbergh, A. R. Davidson and J. H. Rhodes, while J. A. Burkey was appointed a committee to secure proper rooms in which to keep the library.

At the third meeting, which was held August 29 (no time was allowed to go to waste), C. A. Lindbergh and J. H. Rhodes were appointed to draft an ordinance relative to the establishment of a city library, and present the same to the city council, and after such was accomplished the same was presented to the city authorities by Mr. Burkey, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Joss and Miss Sadie Fuller.

At the meeting held in October, the same year, the list of books was completed and accepted by the association and ordered purchased.

The next meeting was on January 7, 1893, at the library rooms in the Butler block, at which Mr. Davidson was called to the chair. At this meeting the report of the committee was made and it was adopted that the two rooms in the Butler block should be used at a rental of nine dollars per month, including janitor's services. It was later known that the city council would levy a tax of one-half mill to support the city library. The committee on books also reported that they had procured books amounting to eight hundred and twenty-six dollars and forty-seven cents. Another matter that was settled at that date was that books might be secured from the library on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays of each week, between the hours

of two and five in the afternoon, as well as on Sunday evenings between seven and nine o'clock.

February 12, 1893, it was reported to the meeting of stockholders that the services of Mrs. L. F. Benton had been secured as librarian, at three dollars per week.

At a meeting in July, of that year, the report was made that the city of Little Falls had concluded to establish a city library and had appointed a board. The resolution read as follows: "Whereas, The city council of the city of Little Falls, Minnesota, having passed an ordinance creating and establishing a free public library, levied a tax for that purpose, for the support of said library, and whereas, the statute of the state of Minnesota provides that any city in the above named state wherein the city council shall have passed an ordinance establishing a public library, and in which city there shall be already existing a public library, the same may be turned over and transferred to said city by the trustees of said library duly passing and adopting a resolution, so turning over and transferring such library to such city, upon the appointment by the mayor of such city, by and with the consent of the city council of such city, of a board of nine trustees to be selected from the citizens of such city, with reference to their fitness for the same, and that not more than one thereof shall be a member of the city council.

"Whereas, The mayor and city council of the city of Little Falls, Minnesota, having complied with all said requirements, and there now being a public library in said city, known as the Little Falls Public Library Association, and it being the duty of the officers and members of said association to so transfer said library to the city of Little Falls aforesaid, it is hereby

"Resolved, by the board of trustees of said association, that in consideration of said library being secured and kept up by the said city as a free public library, and upon the city paying the sum of one hundred and ten dollars, the present indebtedness of the association, said library and all property connected therewith is hereby turned over and transferred to the city of Little Falls, Minnesota, to be and remain henceforth the sole property of said city." On motion this was adopted.

#### UNDER CITY CONTROL.

Mayor Richardson appointed the following board of trustees: Mrs. M. E. Butler, Mrs. John Dennis, Mrs. A. A. Joss, Miss Sadie Fuller, Messrs. A. R. Davidson, J. L. Meyers, John A. Burkey, J. H. Rhodes and W. A.

Bushey. Their first meeting was on July 27, 1893. At this meeting, Miss Sadie Fuller was appointed president of the library board, and W. A. Bushey was made secretary. It was then determined that the library should be open on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings of each week. Miss Laura Guernon was employed as librarian, at two dollars per week. By-laws and regulations for the library were ordered printed, with a catalog.

The first mention in the records of a proposition to or from Andrew Carnegie, concerning a donation to the city of the present splendid public library building was at the meeting of February 1, 1902, when Mrs. C. H. Brown made a motion that the president appoint a committee of three to confer with the city council about the proposition to obtain ten thousand dollars from Mr. Carnegie for a library building, providing the city appropriate ten per cent. of that amount, or one thousand dollars annually, for the library's support. The committee then appointed for that purpose consisted of Messrs. M. M. Williams, C. A. Lindbergh and Charles E. Vasaly.

Mr. Carnegie was heard from in due time, and at the meeting of the board in March, 1902, at which this fact was made known, Mr. Carnegie agreed to give ten thousand dollars providing the city would pledge its support in maintaining the library at a cost of not less than one thousand dollars per year and also to provide a suitable site for the building. A committee was appointed to make this offer known to the city council. Such committee was as follows: Messrs. M. M. Williams, C. A. Lindbergh and Charles E. Vasaly. The committee was also empowered to look after a library site.

After much discussion and investigation of many sites, the one now occupied by the library building was selected, the same being known at that time as the F. A. Lindbergh lots.

On July 15, 1904, the library board opened the bids for erecting the library. Those present were: A. R. Davidson, A. P. Blanchard, L. E. Richard, Mrs. C. H. Brown, Mrs. C. H. Weyerhauser and Stephen Vasaly, as well as Architect F. D. Orff; Stephen Vasaly acting as secretary in the absence of Miss Sadie Fuller. There were bids for the superstructure from five firms, whose bids ranged from nine thousand four hundred and fourteen dollars down to eight thousand one hundred and ten dollars. The last named was by Harrison & Mecusker, and was accepted by the board. The style of building, material, etc., need not be here mentioned, as the completed structure stands, and doubtless will remain a monument that tells its own story, of both beauty and usefulness.

Quite remarkable was the contest for the first janitorship of the new

library. The time set for opening the bids was on January 5, 1905, and there were no less than twenty-seven applicants for the position and the bids ranged from eighteen dollars up to forty-five dollars per month. That of Jerry Blair at twenty dollars per month was accepted by the board.

The library was completed in the spring of 1905 and dedicated in the month of February, with appropriate ceremonies. The records of the library board have been faithfully kept all these years by Miss Sadie Fuller, whose book entries are plain, clear and concise, recording the various proceedings of the board's meetings to date. The present number of books in this library (1915) is five thousand three hundred volumes; fifty periodicals, and three daily and one weekly newspapers. Not over thirty per cent. of the books in this library are fiction, which is far less than many other city libraries have.

The present officers of the board are as follow: S. C. Vasaly, president; Mrs. L. D. Brown, vice-president; Miss Sadie Fuller, secretary; Mrs. Jenny Lind Blanchard, librarian. Other librarians have been Laura Guernon, Grace Hill (Mrs. E. M. LaFond), Miss Cora Tanner (Mrs. W. H. Hunter).

#### LITTLE FALLS WATER POWER COMPANY.

The early history of this enterprise has already been treated, hence it need not here be repeated, but it will be well to show its importance in later years, as bearing on the business of the city. Really, the old company was a dismal failure in its operations, but in 1887 a new company was formed known as the Little Falls Water Power Company, capitalized at six hundred thousand dollars, distributed among both eastern and western capitalists. The year 1888 saw active strides toward making substantial improvements. It was found that by proper construction a "head" or "fall" of more than twenty feet could be secured, thus making it the largest water power (next to Minneapolis) to be found in the state or the whole Northwest region. The dam, completed in 1888, cost in round figures about two hundred thousand dollars.

Upon the completion of this great dam, the citizen property holders voted bonds to the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, as a bonus to aid the improvement. At the election voting these bonds the result was a vote of two to one in favor of bonding the county. The village of Little Falls also entered into a contract with the company, agreeing to pay annually a sum equal to the taxes imposed upon that corporation, and to exempt any





PINE TREE MANUFACTURING COMPANY SAW-MILL, LITTLE FALLS



DAM 1, LITTLE FALLS

corporation or company who might engage in manufacturing using this company's water power for a period of five years. Of the improvements named as in course of construction in 1888, a former state history speaks as follows:

"First the dam across the entire river, resting, however, against the head of Mill Island; second, a canal on the west side, starting from a point opposite the head of Mill Island, and extending one thousand feet down stream. This canal is eighty feet wide and thirteen feet deep, is lined with a retaining wall, and provided with head-gates at the upper end and with a waste-way at the lower end; third a wheel-house, races, and, if found desirable, a wire rope tower for transmitting power to Mill Island and to the east shore. Basing the rental of this power on that of water power at Lowell, Massachusetts, it would be worth one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum. The officers of the company are: W. H. Breyfogle, of Louisville, Kentucky, president; M. M. Williams, of Little Falls, secretary and treasurer." (The above paragraph was written in 1888.)

Another paragraph by the same writer—W. H. C. Folsom—says: "A bridge, built at a cost of twenty-four thousand dollars, crosses the Mississippi at this point. The bridge is four hundred feet long. The Little Falls & Dakota railroad, a branch of the Northern Pacific, is finished from Little Falls to Morris in Stevens county, a distance of eighty-five miles. In addition to the mills connected with the water power there is also a steam saw-mill."

The dam of this company is now one thousand four hundred and fifty feet long and twenty-two feet high. The power generated is ten thousand hydro-electric horse-power.

#### PINE TREE LUMBER COMPANY.

The Pine Tree Lumber Company is the largest enterprise found in the city of Little Falls today. This company was established at Little Falls in 1891-92, by a number of lumber kings throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota—the lumbering section of the middle West. Here more than sixty million feet of northern pine is cut into lumber annually, besides ten million laths. This mill is what is termed the three bands and horizontal re-saw, modernly equipped throughout. The planing mills are equipped with fourteen mills, of a capacity of three hundred thousand feet per day. The saw and planing mills, lumber sheds and yards cover over fifty acres. The lumber yards are divided into alleys with tail alleys between them which are from twelve to

eighteen feet wide, giving plenty of light and air, which insures perfect drying of the lumber stock. Two years ago this great mill gave constant employment to four hundred men during the sawing season. The season usually lasts for seven months. The logs are harvested from Aitkin, Cass and Hubbard counties and are hauled by rail to Little Falls, where they are dumped into the spillway, holding twenty-five million feet. One of the specialties of this mill is its box lumber, used in all box factories throughout the country. The short mill-wood has a local sale, while the four-foot edgings and slabs find ready sale to industrial plants and brick factories, where they are used for fuel.

This mill is run by steam power, and the present officers of the company are: President C. A. Weyerhaeuser; vice-president, F. S. Bell; secretary and treasurer, R. D. Musser; general manager, C. A. Weyerhaeuser.

Besides holdings at Little Falls, this company and some of its stockholders have other extensive saw-mills in the far West in Washington, Oregon and other points. The list of organizers of this gigantic milling project included the Weyerhaeusers and Mussers, whose estates are still included in the stock of the company, and represented by sons and other relatives.

#### FLOUR-MILL INDUSTRIES.

Among the early pioneers was A. Tanner, who engaged in mercantile pursuits at Little Falls, and was early interested in the possibilities to be derived from water-power in several nearby streams. He built and developed a flouring-mill plant on the Swan river, five miles below Little Falls, the same being a "run of stones," by which a fair grade of flour was manufactured after the old methods. The wheat came in by team for a radius of thirty miles. Later he leased the Little Elk mills, a water-power plant with a fifty-barrel daily capacity, three miles northwest of Little Falls, and thus supplied the demand for flour in this community for many years. Upon the development of the water-power at Little Falls, Mr. Tanner leased a site in the manufacturing district of the city, moved a part of the Little Elk plant down to Little Falls, and, under the name of the Little Falls Milling Company, continued the milling business, but on a much larger scale. The old machinery was discarded and replaced with new, improved machinery and the best methods then known for making flour were adopted. A grain market was thus established at Little Falls that drew wheat for many miles around. From that date Little Falls has been a thriving flour center and bears an enviable reputation as a market city.



L. V. Tanner, second son of pioneer A. Tanner, took up the mill business with his father soon after he finished in the high school. Later he was joined by his elder brother, H. H. Tanner. The two sons assumed the business in 1903, at which time the father, A. Tanner, retired from active business. This partnership continued until 1909, when H. H. Tanner sold his interests to L. V. Tanner, who has assumed the management ever since.

It may be stated that these mills were established at Little Falls in 1880, by A. Tanner. They are now run by electric current from the water-power of the Mississippi river. Fifty horse-power is used in running eight double stands of rolls, producing one hundred and twenty-five barrels of flour daily. It is largely sold in central and northern Minnesota, and includes the favorite brands of "Gold Bar," "Sunrise Select Patent" and "Sunrise Cereals."

Specialties of this mill are flour, feed, cereals, in mixed car shipments; also rye, graham, buckwheat breakfast food flour. They also make buckwheat flour and cornmeal. This mill in 1913 made forty thousand barrels of flour, twelve thousand tons of ground feed and employed twelve men. Two elevators were being operated, and a farmers' feed mill was in operation. Many days one thousand dollars was paid out for wheat by this firm.

Another immense milling plant is that of the Northwestern Milling Company, one of the oldest concerns in northern Minnesota. It was established in 1893, and has a daily capacity of six hundred barrels, doing an annual business of one million dollars. "Gold Dust" and "King of Minnesota" are among its fancy brands. It is sold as far away as West Virginia and New Jersey, Massachusetts and other New England places. The elevator has a capacity of thirty-five thousand bushels, and is combined with the four-story milling plant. Twenty-seven men are constantly employed. The master hand and expert miller of this concern, as noted by reference made in 1913, was John W. Stephenson.

#### HENNEPIN PAPER MILLS COMPANY.

Another of the big industries in Little Falls is the Hennepin Paper Mills Company, makers of news-print paper from spruce pulp. It has a daily output of about thirty tons. The equipment contains a one-hundred-and-twenty-inch machine, six pulp grinders. The mill is operated by water, electricity and steam power. The plant and yards cover over five acres of ground. Annually, almost one-half a million dollars' worth of paper is made. This industry was established in 1891, by B. F. Nelson and T. B.

Walker. The material comes from northern Minnesota. About ninety men are constantly employed. The product of these mills is sold largely in the southwestern territory. The officers in 1915 are: B. F. Nelson, president; G. W. Walker, vice-president; W. Ed. Nelson, secretary, and W. J. Walker, treasurer.

#### LITTLE FALLS IRON WORKS.

The Little Falls Iron Works is another industry of goodly proportions in Little Falls. It is the property of John Denis and S. B. Brick, both practical machinists. The shops are built of solid brick masonry, fifty by one hundred feet floor space, and additional warehouse rooms. It is modern in its equipment and produces all grades of castings and machine work. From ten to thirty men were employed there in 1914. They ship work to the far-away Pacific coast region, showing the superiority of workmanship.

#### JACOB KIEWEL BREWING COMPANY.

The Jacob Kiewel Brewing Company owes its establishment and successful operation to Jacob Kiewel, who arrived here in 1894 from Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He purchased a small brewing concern that had been established in 1880. He soon removed the shacks of buildings and erected modern structures and rapidly forged to the front as among the foremost brewers of the state. He has made an independent fortune in the brewing business in this city. The brewery, malt and bottling houses occupy a whole block of ground in the extreme northeast part of the city. Here the annual output in 1913 was placed at fifteen thousand barrels of lager beer and three thousand barrels of bottled goods, each bottle bearing the label "White Rose," this being the trademark of the company. In the malting department there is a capacity of fifteen thousand bushels of barley malt. About twenty skilled men find steady employment in this brewery.

#### THE BRICK INDUSTRY.

Little Falls has become quite well known through her excellent and superior brick. Two miles to the west of the city may be found the extensive brick-making plant of P. O. Duclos. Here thirty men find employment during the brick-making season, which is about seven months out of each year. The new plant is a wonder in the art of making builders' brick. It

is operated by means of electricity, which current cost the owner more than twenty-two thousand dollars. The brick-making building is eighty-seven by one hundred and fifty-seven feet, with two floors, each chamber holding three hundred thousand cream, wire-cut bricks. The daily capacity is about forty-five thousand. It employs the Klose continuous kiln process. The output in 1914 was not far from eight million brick. They are mostly used for facing brick in expensive structures.

#### MANUFACTURING FIGURES—1913.

The following will show the business derived at Little Falls from the various manufacturing plants in 1913—a twelve months' record:

	No. Men.	Wages Paid.	Value Prod.
Pine Tree Manufacturing Company-----	400	\$240,000	\$1,000,000
Northwestern Milling Company-----	26	32,864	1,000,000
Little Falls Milling Company-----	10	12,640	300,000
Hennepin Paper Company -----	90	85,360	300,000
Kiewel Brewing Company -----	16	20,000	150,000
Sylvester & Nichols -----	13	16,432	100,000
P. O. Duclos Brick Manufacturing -----	30	16,000	100,000
Little Falls Iron Works -----	10	9,480	100,000
Little Falls Creamery -----	5	5,000	100,000
Little Falls Plumbing and Cycle Company--	8	10,000	75,000
Little Falls Power Company -----	12	11,060	70,000
Cigar industry -----	4	4,800	14,000
Total -----	622	\$463,648	\$3,238,000

The above figures tell the story of Little Falls' industrial prosperity and why it is forging ahead so fast. All of these industries are money-makers, proving that central Minnesota is the ideal location for establishing new industries, and that Little Falls is a chosen spot owing to its central position, free factory sites, cheap hydro-electric power and the best of railroad transportation facilities.

#### BUSINESS COLLEGE.

Since 1905 Little Falls has boasted of one of the best commercial schools in the great Northwest. It was founded that year by its present proprietor,

R. B. Millard. It is well equipped with all modern appliances, with a full line of departments, headed by competent instructors in banking, bookkeeping, typewriting, shorthand, accounting, commercial law, penmanship, commercial arithmetic and general business office education. Here one finds five dictaphones, adding machines, twenty-five typewriters of one make and many other styles. The attendance is from one hundred to two hundred per term. This college is the pride of the city and is sending out into the walks of commercial life many scores of competent young men and women. It occupies the entire third floor of the Realty block, in the very heart and center of the city.

#### CATHOLIC HOSPITAL AND ORPHANAGE.

Little Falls is the seat of one of the finest hospitals and Catholic orphanages to be seen in all the great Northwest. Its origin and present conditions are here related by one in authority:

"Rev. Mother Mary Ignatius was the youngest daughter of a noble English Protestant family by the name of Hayes, and was born in Guernsey, an island belonging to Great Britain. Her conversion in the Catholic church was brought about by reading the 'Lives of the Saints.' She was admitted to the sacraments in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, in London. In 1847, Mother M. Ignatius entered the Order of St. Francis and soon afterward she joined Mother Veronica of the same order in opening a house in the West Indies. After some years of great fatigue and exhaustion under the tropical sun of the Indies, M. M. Ignatius obtained necessary letters of obedience, and was sent to the United States to make a foundation. In St. Paul, Minnesota, she was graciously received by Rt. Rev. Bishop Grace, and under his assistance and auspices, determined upon a work of an industrial school for poor French Canadian settlers at Belle Prairie, Minnesota.

"Three years later Mother Mary Ignatius opened an industrial school for poor Negro children in Augusta, Georgia. In 1880, Reverend Ignatius went to Rome, Italy, and in 1885, she returned to the United States to seek to be released from the burden of the government of her communities in America. In about 1887 the Sisters from the Negro mission returned to Belle Prairie, and in the same year the convent of Belle Prairie was completely destroyed by fire. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Seidenbush being dead, the Sisters were obliged to live three months in a barn, waiting and hoping that Rt. Rev. Bishop Zardetti would come to take charge of the diocese of St. Cloud,

Minnesota. His Lordship not being willing that the Sisters should try to rebuild their convent without having obtained a separation from their Mother house in Rome, Italy, advised them to go to Rome for that purpose, Very Rev. Father Ferdinand, O. S. F., Provincial of Province of St. Louis, Missouri, having furnished the necessary documents, signed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Zardetti, St. Cloud. Two Sisters went to Rome in order to obtain the desired separation. Sixteen Sisters remained in America for the new foundation."

In 1891 the Sisters had erected St. Gabriels Hospital, costing fifty thousand dollars. In 1895 they built Otto's Orphanage, costing twenty-five thousand dollars. In 1897 they erected St. Francis Hospital, Breckenridge, costing sixty thousand dollars. In 1902 St. James Hospital was erected at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars, at Perham, Minnesota. In 1913 a new hospital was built by them at Dodgeville, Wisconsin, costing forty thousand dollars. These worthy Sisters are now building another hospital in Little Falls, costing about seventy thousand dollars.

At present (1915) there are fifty-four professed Sisters in the community, ten novices and five postulants. The work of these faithful Sisters is remarkable and far-reaching in its holy and benevolent influences.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE POLISH PEOPLE.

By A. F. Koslosky.

In writing the history of our Polish citizens in Morrison county it is imperative that we know something of their native land, whence they have emigrated, and of the freedom and privileges they have enjoyed there, so as to better enable us to judge the progress and achievements they have made since they landed here in this land of freedom and opportunities.

The Polish people came from the great Slavonic race; we hear about them as early as 550 A. D.; they inhabited the country surrounding the ancient Polish cities of Posen and Gnezen (Prussian Poland), the latter city being their capital. Their first king was Mieczislav I, crowned in 962 A. D., under whose reign they became christianized. They weathered the political storms and numerous Asiatic raids. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries they reached a high stage of culture and civilization, with many fine schools and churches; a fine constitutional government, as well as a literature not excelled by any other nation.

Between 1772 and 1795 their beautiful country of two hundred and eighty-two thousand square miles was divided between her three jealous neighbors—Russia, Prussia and Austria. Since then the Polish people have undergone untold sufferings. In Russian Poland they were permitted to use the Polish language, but the persecution of the religious and educational institutions was simply intolerable; any display of Polish nationalism was dealt with severely, but since 1905 conditions have changed for the better, and, strange to say, the percentage of illiterates is very small. Economically, the Prussian Pole was more fortunate than his brother in Russian and Austrian Poland, but even there did the cruel grip of oppression tighten on the unfortunate Pole. The Polish language was barred from all schools, from public meetings, even from the streets. All literature with a semblance of a Polish national character was at once confiscated, and at last came the cruel Dispossession Bill, whereby the government official can at any time

dispossess any Polish real estate owner on his making the slightest show of self-defense.

The Galician (as the Austrian Pole is called), prior to 1860, was even more oppressed than the Pole of Russian or Prussian Poland. In 1860 Galicia was granted partial autonomy. This was not freedom as we Americans understand freedom; still the Galician had a fighting chance, and he progressed with such rapidity that he even excelled his oppressors. Oppressed at home, persecuted on the street, at school, at church, in the army, ruled by three monarchs, they still were sons of one mother—Poland. They wept for each other, yet suffered alike; even their very soul was not their own. Still the hardy Pole clung tenaciously to the Polish soil, and up to 1860 the Polish emigration was very light, but since 1870 and 1872 each succeeding year doubled or trebled the number of Polish emigrants. On they came, first from Silesia, West Prussia and Great Poland. On they came from Galicia and on they came from Russian Poland, some with money and others with just enough money to bring them over the ocean. Some came on passes furnished them by relatives or friends. Some came with families, others just the head of the family, or some single members of the household, but on they came over the briny deep until now their number has almost reached the five million mark.

Each immigrant carries with him his own scars of hardship. None knew the language of Americans; none knew the customs of the country or its laws. The few who had money suffered but little inconvenience, but those who had only the price of a loaf of bread, with their family across the ocean, in poverty and misery, took the first job that Providence threw in their way and stuck to it and saved their earnings. After getting their family across to this country they at once commenced opening up homes, purchasing land on the installment plan. The Polish emigrant who settled in Morrison county was no exception; on him also are visible scars of hardship.

#### FIRST POLISH EMIGRANT.

The first and oldest Polish settlement in this county is North Prairie in Two Rivers township, and the first to face the Morrison county wilderness were John and Simon Schwintek, about 1868. Then John Mucha and Carl Thomalla in about 1870. John Kasperek, Sr., came about 1872. Leaving St. Cloud, they followed the Mississippi river, and rough roads and corduroy bridges were their only means of transportation. The slow, steady but sure ox-team and lumber wagon carried their earthly possessions.

At last they landed on their little claim, and the only clear space was the sky above them. They were then in the midst of oaks, elms and basswood trees hundreds of year old. Here they built their log houses and with the courage of a Cæsar or a Napoleon, they started to clear up the land. Soon others of their kind came; family, kindred and friends were soon added to the little colonies, mostly from Silesia, Prussian Poland. Soon all available land was taken up, forests and sloughs were transformed into productive fields and meadows. Log houses disappeared and neat frame residences took their places. Straw sheds went down and fine, large barns went up. Spacious granaries were built and paths and trails were changed to graded highways.

What is true of North Prairie is also true of Swan River, Flensburg, Elm Dale, Bowlus, Holdingford, Little Falls and Platte. There is some doubt as to who really was the first Polish settler in the above named settlements, but whoever they were, they arrived about the year 1876, and each settlement bears evidence of the same energy and progress. The Polish immigrant is very successful at farming, but he has also liberally contributed to the county, city and village population as well. He now has to his credit nine beautiful churches, and there is hardly an industry or business in which he is not well represented.

The Polish immigrant has prospered in Morrison county. Yes, he has prospered in spite of thousands of obstacles. God grant that he prosper in the future, ever mindful of his duties and obligations to this great American nation that has so kindly adopted him one of her sons.

If ever there was a time when the Americans had a prejudice as against the Pole, that day has long since passed, for they have proved themselves to be worthy the confidence and esteem of all other good citizens. While at times we hear people speak of their being "clannish," it is an unjust assertion, for it will be remembered that all foreigners upon coming to our shores naturally mingle with those of their own fellow countrymen, those who speak the same language and attend the same church and school. The Yankees, should any considerable number of them form a colony in any one of the foreign countries, would do the same thing, as it is but human to do so. But today this line is not so marked as in former years. Today the Pole stands for all that is good and excellent in our government, and even more highly prizes and respects the flag of his adopted country than many native-born citizens, and if need be will fight for it as bravely.



## CHAPTER XX.

### MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.

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#### POPULATION OF MORRISON COUNTY.

At certain periods the population of this county has been as follows: In 1860 its total population was six hundred and eighteen. Of this number all but about one hundred resided on the east side of the Mississippi river. In 1870 the population had increased to 1,681, and in 1875 had reached 2,375.

By townships, the population in 1875 ran as follows. Two Rivers township, 753; Pierz township, 404; Green Prairie township, 94; Belle Prairie township, 419; Little Falls township, 389; Culdrum township, 146; Swan River township, 332; Buckman township, 119; Bellevue township, 79. Total, 2,375. This showed an increase during the period from 1870 to 1875, of 1,054.

#### UNITED STATES CENSUS POPULATION REPORT.

	1910	1900	1890
Agram township -----	292	300	221
Belle Prairie township -----	686	765	605
Bellevue township -----	632	541	302
Bowlus village -----	164	164	---
Buckman township -----	848	1,623	679
Buckman village -----	137	---	---
Buh township -----	713	699	---
Clough township -----	272	244	---
Culdrum township -----	868	868	675
Cushing township -----	313	253	---
Darling township -----	536		
Elmdale township -----	1,574	1,425	932

Granite township-----	478	---	---
Green Prairie township-----	226	299	834
Hillman township-----	66	---	---
Lakin township-----	55	---	---
Leigh township-----	54	---	---
Little Falls township-----	356	427	217
Little Falls City:			
Ward 1-----	1,941		
Ward 2-----	1,340		
Ward 3-----	1,591		
Ward 4-----	1,206		
Total in City-----	6,078	5,774	2,354
Morrill township-----	350	345	132
Motley township-----	88	226	365
Motley village-----	428	404	525
Mount Morris township-----	54	13	---
Parker township-----	479	516	252
Pierz township-----	631	1,049	1,387
Pierz village-----	545	358	---
Pike Creek township-----	1,394	1,361	809
Platte township-----	209	206	---
Pulaski township-----	129	121	---
Rails Prairie township-----	206	285	---
Randall village-----	195	---	---
Richardson township-----	60	---	---
Ripley township-----	610	716	614
Rosing township-----	143	---	---
Royalton village-----	676	664	---
Scandia Valley township-----	158	260	---
Swan River township-----	1,225	1,229	983
Swanville township-----	826	686	---
Swanville village-----	397	244	---
Two Rivers township-----	812	911	857
Totals-----	24,053	22,891	13,325

The reports show that Morrison county had 616 inhabitants in 1860; in 1865 it had 796; in 1870 it had reached 1,681; in 1875 it was 2,722; in 1890 it was 13,325; in 1900 it was 22,891; in 1910 it had reached 24,053.

## INCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

In 1915 there are the following incorporated villages and cities within Morrison county: Buckman, incorporated in May, 1903. Little Falls (city), incorporated on February 7, 1902. Village of Pierz, incorporated on August 17, 1894. Village of Swanville, incorporated on May 24, 1893. Royalton was incorporated in October, 1887. Randall village was incorporated in July, 1900. Other incorporated villages are Bowlus, Genola (formerly New Pierz), Flensburg and Motley.

## POSTOFFICES IN 1915.

The postoffices in operation in this county in 1915 are as follow: Little Falls, Hillman, Motley, New Pierz (now Genola), Pierz, Ramey, Randall, Royalton, Rucker, Swanville, Lincoln, Cushing, Flensburg, Bowlus—a total of fourteen. Formerly there were many more, but on account of the many free rural delivery routes established in the last decade many have been discontinued.

## RECORDED VILLAGE PLATS.

Morrison county, like most Minnesota counties, had its full share of town sites. Twenty-four town plats were recorded in Little Falls, by the register of deeds, from 1855 to 1858, many of which, however, were not located within what is the present county, but were platted on unsurveyed government lands. Except Fergus Falls and Little Falls, none ever attained any considerable historic fame. Fergus Falls was so named for its founder, James Fergus, who was a pioneer at Little Falls and went with a company of men to Otter Tail county and there located Fergus Falls in the autumn of 1856. The same company also platted towns in many other western Minnesota sections, none of which ever materialized to any extent; in fact were only sprung on the public as "paper towns" for the purpose of exciting the spirit of speculation which was rife throughout all of the Western states at that period. In several cases lots were sold in the cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, to parties who had no idea of the wilderness condition of the country in which the towns were platted by their designing founders. Of such towns in Morrison county, none succeeded in keeping up any semblance of villages save possibly Swan River, Belle Prairie and Granite City. Of the lesser plattings may be recalled Lulo, Buckfield, Big Bend, Little Elk, Janes-

ville and Olean, names only recalled by the memory of the very earliest settlers who chance now to have survived the storms of many decades and are still with us.

#### TOWN PLATS.

Of the town or village plattings within Morrison county, the register of deeds' office now has an account of the following:

Cushing, in the southwest quarter of section 21, township 131, range 31; platted December 18, 1907, by Oscar Carlson for an estate.

Bowlus, in the southwest quarter of section 127, range 30; by the Tri-State Land Company, July 7, 1907.

Buckman, in sections 5, 8 and 9, township 39, range 30; July 18, 1903, by a townsite company with many local names attached.

Flensburg, in section 25, township 129, range 31; March 18, 1890, by Olaf O. and Dagmar Searle.

Hillman, in the west half of section 28, township 41, range 28; July 8, 1908, by the Tri-State Land Company.

Lincoln, in section 31, township 132, range 31; September 12, 1893, by Elizabeth Bauman.

Motley, in section 18, township 133, range 31; by the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Company, April 7, 1879.

North Prairie, in section 20, township 127, range 29; July 3, 1885, by George Gissel.

McKinley, in section 30, township 132, range 31; by William B. Hash and wife, Sarah, May 31, 1899.

Town of Pierz, in section 8, township 40, range 30, and in sections 34 and 35, township 41, range 30; October, 1887.

Village of Pierz, in 1891, by forty-three persons whose names are attached to the platting. It is situated in the north half of the south half of section 8, township 40, range 30, also in sections 34 and 35 of township 41, range 30. This was re-surveyed and corrected by R. J. Batzer, county surveyor, in 1903.

New Pierz, in the southeast quarter of section 18, township 40, range 30; August 29, 1908, by John Stumpf and wife.

Randall, in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 7, township 30, range 30; March 10, 1890, by Daniel and Alice K. Merrill.

Royalton (Bradford's addition), in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 35, township 39, range 32; December, 1882, by Mary Bradford.

Little Falls (original plat), surveyed in 1856, by S. M. Putnam, surveyor, in Minnesota Territory; by the Little Falls Manufacturing Company.

Swanville, in section 7, township 28, range 31; November, 1882; by John N. Williams, Jr., and Albert and Mathilda Rhoda.

Vawter, in parts of sections 6 and 31, in townships 39 and 40, range 31; July 3, 1908, by the Tri-State Land Company.

#### GRASSHOPPER RAVAGES.

While Morrison county has never suffered by grasshoppers to the extent that other portions of the country have, yet it has had its scourge by these winged pests. In the latter part of July, 1856, the grasshoppers made their appearance and sudden descent upon the county. They came in from the northwest. Their ravages extended to nearly all parts of the county. Grain was ripening and nearly ready for the harvest, yet about two-thirds of the crop was destroyed. That autumn they deposited large quantities of eggs, from which the following spring there appeared an immense army of grasshoppers. These devoured almost every living, green bit of vegetable substance to be found on the surface of the land. But the settlers endured this loss without much complaint, for all the able-bodied men were busy at teaming and other paying labor by which they were enabled to care and supply their families with food.

Since the departing of grasshoppers, in 1857, no serious trouble has been met with on account of the pests. About 1873 a few appeared in the western part of this county, doing much damage to growing crops and gardens, but not since that year have farmers experienced much trouble on account of grasshoppers, which in Iowa and Dakota caused so much distress and devastation in the later seventies.

#### ONLY LEGAL HANGING IN COUNTY.

Morrison county has never had but one legal execution, and that was for cold-blooded murder. It occurred in July, 1889, in the court house square, just to the north of the present brick jail, after midnight, as prescribed by law.

The circumstances were as follow: A man calling himself Albert Buelow had been stealing horses and running them from Wisconsin and Minnesota up into North Dakota. Several teams were thus stolen and in

July, 1889, he stayed all night at a farm house nine miles out from Little Falls, and the following day just before dusk, he asked a farmer residing in Buckman township for permission to ride with him, which was granted, and after riding to a point about a mile and a half out of Royalton, in Bellevue township, he shot the farmer, whose name was Eich, in the head and killed him. He then hid the lifeless body in the brush and weeds alongside the road, after which he took the farmer's team and made his way from the vicinity.

He was pursued by the sheriff of Morrison county, Henry Rasicot, as far as Verndale, where he was captured, placed in jail and at the March term of court pleaded guilty to the murder of Eich. The judge sentenced him to be hanged. This was the first and last hanging within the limits of Morrison county. From later evidence it appears that had the plans of Buelow worked out he would have been liberated by the wife of a deputy sheriff, who secured the keys and liberated all the remaining prisoners in the county jail. Fearing something might happen, and having suspicions of the woman, Sheriff Rasicot did not leave the jail, but kept close watch the last few days prior to the execution. There was no question as to the man's guilt.

#### DISCOVERY OF IRON ORE.

In 1913 there were shipped a million tons of ore from the mines that had but recently been discovered. This was from an extension of the famous Cuyuna iron range which extends at least as far as the northwestern portion of Morrison county. The first drilling was done on this the south extension of the Cuyuna, in section 31, township 131, range 30, in 1905. Drilling here and at other points in the vicinity continued two years, by parties sent out as explorers from Duluth. In 1907 the first explored mineral property was deeded to Marshall H. Alworth, of Duluth. In 1912 mineral land leases were executed to parties in St. Cloud and drilling was continued with happy results. At Randall, Morrison county, in 1913, there were companies drilling, and near there many lands changed hands and speculation was rife. Among the largest owners and holders of mineral land leases in Morrison county were John Vertin, Little Falls; Congressman Lindbergh and Judge J. T. Hale.

In Belle Prairie township, on another entirely different iron ore range, known as the Mille Lacs range, other discoveries were made a year or two ago. Some of the points where drilling was carried on were in section 8, township 41, range 31, on Mr. Moran's land, and in section 10, township 41,

range 31, and at other points. Among the men of Little Falls interested especially in these mines (prospective fortunes) are S. J. Vasaly, the jeweler, and C. B. Buckman. Just what these explorations will finally bring forth remains to be seen by a further development.

#### A WORTHY PIONEER.

Nathan Richardson, a most worthy, capable man, was born in Wayne county, New York, in 1829. He was reared on the farm and obtained a common-school education at Romeo, Michigan, coming to Little Falls, Minnesota, in 1855. He served as register of deeds for Morrison county eight years and was postmaster at Little Falls eleven years. He also served as county surveyor and county attorney, having been admitted to the bar in 1877. For a quarter of a century he was a notary public. From 1867 to 1878 he was states representative. During his first term he represented nineteen counties, nearly half of the territory of Minnesota. For two years he was judge of the probate court. At the request of the county commissioners in the eighties he collected and published in the local newspapers a history of Morrison county, which has come to be of great historic value. He married Mary A. Roof by whom were born three sons and two daughters. He passed from earth about 1907.

#### LITTLE FALLS GRANITE QUARRIES.

Fourteen miles to the east of the city of Little Falls are located the famous granite quarries known as the "Vermont Quarries." This granite is a dark gray, dark red and tinted color which is susceptible of a high polish, and is equal to the best on the continent. The only thing in the way of further developing these wonderful quarries of granite is the lack of railroad facilities. This stone is in great demand for monuments and other beautiful works in building and the finer arts. A line of railway has been projected from Little Falls to Pierz which would easily connect with the Soo line and give an excellent outlet for this valuable granite.

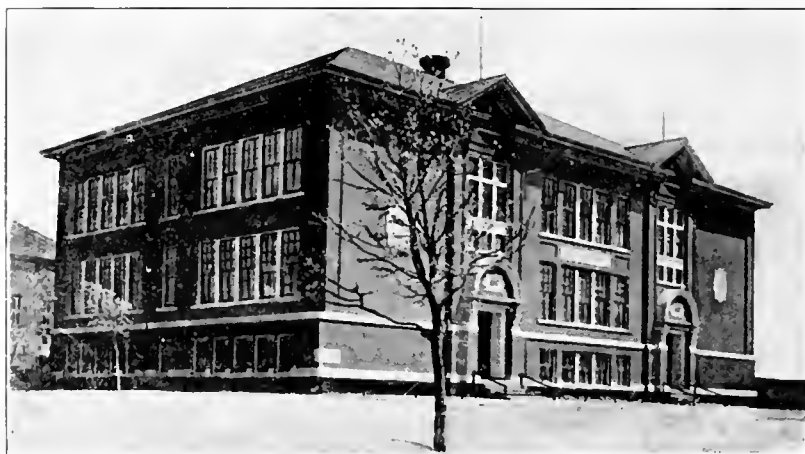








TODD COUNTY COURT HOUSE, LONG PRAIRIE



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, LONG PRAIRIE



OSAKIS STREET, LONG PRAIRIE

# HISTORY OF TODD COUNTY

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## CHAPTER I.

### GEOLOGY AND SURFACE FEATURES.

The author is indebted largely to Warren Upham, secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, for much contained in this chapter, as he made a survey and had to do with the latest investigations regarding the geological formation, topography and other matters which entered into his report, which was made a section in the large volume issued by the state in 1888, which included the surveys of 1881.

Long Prairie, the county seat of Todd county and in 1888 the largest town within its borders, is one hundred and fifteen miles from St. Paul. The county's area is 1,008.34 square miles, or 645,336.72 acres, of which 27,111.58 acres are covered with water.

### SURFACE FEATURES.

The natural drainage of the county is wholly within the Mississippi basin. From Todd county the Crow Wing river receives its largest tributary, the Long Prairie river, which drains about one-half of the county of Todd, besides one-quarter of Douglas county. Red Eye river from the north and Wing river from the south are large tributaries of Leaf river; and Long Prairie river receives Moran brook and Eagle creek from the west, and Fish Trap brook and Turtle creek from the east side, besides numerous lesser streams.

In southeastern Todd county the Swan river gathers its head waters in Burnhamville and portions of adjoining townships, flowing east thence through Morrison county to the Mississippi river.

## LAKES.

The largest lake in Todd county is Osakis, which is seven miles long and from one-half to two or three miles wide. North and west of Long Prairie river Todd county has only a few small lakes, the greatest being Staples lake, in section 9. The half of the county south and east of the river, however, has many lakes, the largest of which, after Osakis, are Henry (Maple), Little Sauk and Fairy lakes toward the southwest, and the Birch Bark lakes, Swan, Latimer, Charlotte, Cold, Two Island, Thunder, Rice, Long and Fawn lakes toward the east.

## TOPOGRAPHY.

The topography of Todd county is more diversified than that in Wadena county. Such modified drift occupies only a small portion of its area, being confined chiefly to belts one to two miles wide next to the line between this and Wadena county, on the Crow Wing river, on Long Prairie river, and through the western third of Round Prairie. The remainder of this county, excepting several other smaller tracts of modified drift, is covered by the unmodified glacial drift, called till or boulder-clay. For the greater part this has a smoothly undulating or rolling surface, with elevations twenty to forty feet above the depressions; but on considerable tracts it is more prominently rolling and hilly, constituting terminal moraines. To the latter class belong the drift hills fifty to one hundred feet high north and east of Osakis lake and reaching thence southeast to Sauk and Birch Bark lakes; hills one hundred to even two hundred feet high, occupying most of Gray Eagle and Burnhamville townships; and their continuation northward, fifty to one hundred feet high along the east border of the county to the east part of Fawn Lake township. Mt. Nebo is also a culminating point in this series of hills.

Along the greater part of its course northward from Long Prairie village, the valley of Long Prairie river has a width of about one mile and is bounded by moderate slopes which rise gradually to an average of fifty-five feet—in cases seventy-five feet—above the stream, seldom forming the steep bluffs which indicate undermining erosion by the river; but in the west edge, of Long Prairie and through Reynolds this valley is only one-fourth to one-third of a mile wide and is enclosed by bluffs from sixty to seventy-five feet

high, with steep slopes, while in Leslie it is bordered by irregular morainic hills.

#### ELEVATIONS.

Motley is 1,227 feet above sea level; Dower Lake Station, 1,293 feet; Staples Mills, 1,276 feet, while Wadena is 1,350 feet. At Eagle Bend the altitude reaches 1,383—the highest point in the county. At Long Prairie the altitude from sea-level reaches 1,274 feet, while at Birch Bark lake it is only 1,175. The highest point of land in Todd county in the morainic hill sections is 1,500 feet, near Stowe Prairie.

#### SOIL AND TIMBER.

For the most part Todd county has a very productive clayey soil, which bears a heavy growth of timber, usually with much underbrush, the list of trees being about the same as found in adjoining counties and will be found in the Morrison county section of this work. In Stowe township prairies are found, and on the south side of Shell river a prairie extends eight miles northward from Shell river township into Hubbard county. Long Prairie and Round Prairie are valuable possessions of Todd county. The northeast boundary of the great prairie region of southwestern Minnesota crosses the southwest corner of Todd county, and includes sections 31 and 32 and parts of adjoining sections in Gordon, nearly all of West Union, and the south edge of Kandota.

#### GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

At only two points in Todd county is the bed-rock exposed. The places are in Ward and Moran townships. The average thickness of the drift in Todd county is about one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet. From twenty to thirty per cent. of this drift deposit is gravel. Many petrifications are found within Todd county—beautiful and large specimens.

The alluvium—the first tract of gravel, sand and fine silt or clay—borders on Long Prairie river most of the way from the village of Long Prairie to its mouth, with a width varying from half a mile to one mile. Outside the alluvial tract, a considerable part of the belt called the Long Prairie is modified drift, undulating ten to twenty feet in long smooth slopes as high as forty feet above the river bed.

Good wells are to be had at from fifteen to sixty feet all over Todd county,

and the quality of water is excellent. Most all the thousands of wells are productive of fine water found in either sand or gravel—Nature's own perfect filtering system.

#### MATERIAL RESOURCES.

Agriculture is the leading industry of this section of Minnesota. Its good supply of timber places the production of lumber and wooden manufactories next in rank to farming industries. Water power is found at many points within this county.

No special stone quarries for the production of building stone have ever been developed in this county. Boulders are, or rather were, much used for rough masonry in days gone by, but cement has come in to take the place of stone in most instances both in town and country.

In 1881, H. B. Morrison, of Motley, opened a brick-yard three-fourths of a mile east on the north side of the railroad near the middle of section 18, Moran township, five miles west of Motley, producing red bricks of bright color and of excellent quality as to strength and durability. His product in 1881 was about 450,000, selling at from eight to ten dollars per thousand loaded on cars. Wood fuel cost at that date two dollars per cord. In section 35, Eagle Valley township, brick-making commenced in 1880, and 80,000 in 1880, and 125,000 in 1881 were produced. The maker, George G. Howe, also made curved brick for well curbing purposes which sold readily at ten dollars per thousand.

Other brick-kilns were established in this county, after modern methods, about 1878, and in a few years it had come to be a large, profitable industry.

## CHAPTER II.

### EARLY DAYS IN TODD COUNTY.

By John H. Sheets, in 1911.

Todd county is located in central Minnesota within what is known as the Park region of the state—a beautiful stretch of country comprising fertile prairies, noble forests, ranges of verdure covered hills, with hundreds of sky-tinted lakes and streams of limpid waters.

No country ever offered better advantages for home building than this section. The first settler could choose at his will from a vast environment, taking such land as he pleased. The prairies and brush openings made it easy for one to break and subdue the soil and farms could be opened with much less labor than the dense forests of middle-west sections afforded, such as had been the case in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Nor did the first settlers here suffer the exposure and endure the hardships encountered by those early pioneers in other sections. The forest gave them fuel and building materials and the maple trees provided them with plenty of sugar. Natural meadows abounded along the streams, and in the marshes there was an abundance of grass and other forage for stock; wild fruits grew in abundance and game of all kinds ranged in the forests, while the lakes and streams had plenty of excellent fish. It is true that many of the refinements of life were, for a time wanting, but all were healthy and happy and lived in a lively hope of a better near-at-hand future which soon crowned their efforts.

### ATTRACTIVE SIDE OF FRONTIER LIFE.

The so-called poverty of the frontier settler is not the squalid poverty of the city slum; it does not dwarf the body and mind of the growing child, but stimulates to healthy effort and contributes to growth and independence. Nor must it be inferred that the life of the early settler was dull and unattractive. They had their social functions, their society meetings, their churches and schools, and on the whole, their life was as full and satisfying

and useful—if not even more so—than the more developed and more elegant social circle of the present day.

But whether frontier life is more wholesome or attractive than that which comes later, like youth to the individual, it comes to the community but once. The conditions of that golden day are gone. The wild game of the forest is nearly a thing of the past. The deer and the elk and some other species of game are vanished, and the prairie chicken and the partridge are less plentiful than when the first settlers came upon the scene. But the clear bracing atmosphere, the bright sunshine and waters of crystal purity still give life and vigor to our people and the fertile soil yields abundant harvests to the industrious husbandman.

#### THE INDIAN PROBLEM.

During the early years of the nineteenth century this territory was the disputed ground between the Sioux and Chippewa Indians. It was at one time in possession of the Sioux, but they were gradually dispossessed by their more powerful foes and about 1840 the government established a boundary line between the two hostile tribes; aiming to confine the Sioux to the great plains from the forest lands of the Missouri river, while the Chippewas were given possession eastward to Lake Superior. But this did not end the hostilities between them and roving bands of Sioux and Chippewas often met in deadly battle. Among the Chippewas who came up the river to trade with the white settlers about sixty-five years ago, there was a tradition that at some time in the past a bloody and decisive battle was fought between these two tribes in the vicinity of Coal Lake, near the western edge of the town of Little Elk, in which the Chippewas were victorious.

Were it possible to write the history of these two powerful tribes, as they waged deadly warfare for possession of the land, it would rival in interest the most fascinating tales of chivalry. But this region was generally occupied by the Chippewa tribe when the first settlers came here and many citizens still resident frequently recall visits by old chief "Bad Boy" and his tribesmen to this section for several years after Todd county was organized. The chief and his followers were friendly to the white men during the Sioux outbreak in 1862, and they were not strictly confined to their reservation by the government and state authorities. As late as the early seventies these Indians came up the long Prairie river to trade the products of their industries with the people of the white race and even in 1877 there were occasional Indian camps in the northern part of Todd county.



The history of the settlement of Todd county would be comprised almost wholly within the history of Long Prairie village, when the present site of the county seat was selected by the government as the location of the Indian agency. This agency was established in 1845 and the Winnebago Indians, brought here from somewhere in Illinois, made this their home. This tribe had joined with the Sacs and Foxes and Pottawattomies in the Black Hawk War in 1838, and when the outbreak was suppressed, the Winnebagos were sent to this agency. The expedition which brought these Indians to their new home came up the Mississippi by boats as far as St. Paul, and from there by pack train and on foot coming into the present limits of Todd county by way of Osakis and along the south shore of Osakis lake. There was then no trail by which to travel and the party had to cut a road as they moved through the primeval forests of that day.

#### OLD INDIAN AGENCY.

The establishment of the agency brought a large number of white people, many being government officials and other employees, while others came as Indian traders and adventurers. There were erected one hundred and fifty buildings and about a thousand acres of land was broken and fenced into forty-acre lots to be farmed by the Indians. The first residents of the present village can remember the marks of the plow and the hollows where the cellars of the houses had been along the old road down the prairie towards the north beyond the farm now owned by the Thiels brothers, and as late as 1880 or 1881 the site of the old stockade could be traced in the western part of the village. The lumber used in building the town at that time was sawed by a mill run by horse power somewhere in eastern Hartford or Little Elk. Some of these buildings were comparatively fine structures costing as much as three thousand dollars. The agency was maintained until about 1854 when disturbances between the Winnebagoes and the Chippewas became frequent and the former tribe was removed to a new agency not far from the present site of Mankato.

The government property, it seems, was purchased shortly after by Anson Northrup and sold by him to the Long Prairie Land Company. The headquarters of this company was at Cincinnati, Ohio, and all the town lots of the original site of Long Prairie village as well as many farms in the vicinity were purchased of this company. Major Clark, one of this company, was the first resident agent and brought in cattle and ponies from the

Red River country. General Van Cleve was afterward the resident agent and his wife, Charlotte Van Cleve, was prominent in charitable and public movements in the state until recent years. Lake Charlotte to the south of town, was named for her. But white settlers could not be drawn to this section in that early day and at the close of the year 1859, W. W. Tuttle, James Martin and General Van Cleve, with their families were the only inhabitants of the once populous and bustling town. Many of the inhabitants went to other parts of the state, while a few settled in other parts of the county. Among the later were H. C. Hewes, who settled on Round Prairie; C. E. Buss, who went to West Union, and A. H. Gibson, who took land on Bear Head creek in what is now the town of Bruce. These three residents of the first town of Long Prairie later became permanent residents of the county, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Buss remaining until death called them hence, while Mr. Hewes occupied his farm until some twenty-five years ago when he removed with his family to the state of Washington. Mr. Buss was for many years county treasurer.

#### AN OLD-FASHIONED POLE RAISING.

In the spring of 1860 A. D. Brower came into the county along with a few others and on the 4th of July of that year, the total population of the county to the number of twenty-seven souls, gathered at Long Prairie to celebrate the nation's birthday. On that date a pole was erected on the present court house site, which was known for many years as "liberty pole," giving its name largely to the town. Many of the older settlers knew of the town under this name, rather than that of Long Prairie. This pole was damaged by fire and on the 4th of July, 1869, at a celebration in the village, a new "liberty pole" was raised and dedicated by Rev. John Jones to the memory of George Russell, Richard D. Brower and Abraham D. Brower, Jr., who had given their lives in the War of the Rebellion. This pole remained standing until about the time the present court house was built in 1883.

In the summer of 1860, Samuel Lee, father of Wm. E. Lee, moved to Long Prairie with his family, from a few miles west of the Mississippi. He had started for West Union, where he expected to locate permanently, but on reaching Long Prairie, he was persuaded by General Van Cleve to stop here, as there were many houses empty which he could occupy and land in abundance for farming, free of rent. He remained in Long Prairie for about two years when he went back and located on the east bank of the Mississippi. From that place he enlisted in the army during the Civil War.

## THE SIOUX OUTBREAK.

Along in the latter part of the summer of 1860, a company of soldiers in command of Lieutenant Latimer, after whom Lake Latimer was named, was sent to Long Prairie to guard the few settlers against danger from the Indians. Roving bands of Sioux led by Winnebagos roamed through this section in their forays against the Chippewas, their hereditary enemies, and it was feared they might attack the whites. During the stay of this company of soldiers, a young girl, the daughter of one of the officers, whose name is now unknown, died and was buried on the northern declivity of the hill east of town. All the older inhabitants of Long Prairie and vicinity well remember the old lichen-covered picket fence that for many years marked the grave. This company of soldiers must have been withdrawn before the year 1862 at the time of the Sioux Indian outbreak, as no one remained in the village at that time except James Martin and family and the resident agent, one Mr. Weakly—General Van Cleve having gone to the front in command of the Second Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.

When the outbreak occurred and news of its horrors reached Long Prairie, the inhabitants of the county fled to protected points, and Todd county reverted to its former state of an uninhabited wilderness. A. D. Brower and family alone remained on his farm in the southwestern extremity of Round Prairie surrounded and guarded by a band of friendly Chippewas. Thus Mr. Brower took rank as the oldest continuous resident. After the Civil War, immigrants began to locate within the borders of Todd county and commenced to build up permanent homes. Many will remember Mr. Brower as a conspicuous figure at all public gatherings—a somewhat undersized but well-built figure, erect as a soldier, clad in buckskin, with long, flowing white hair and beard and with keen, twinkling blue eyes. It was reported that the town was burned by the Indians after all the inhabitants had fled, but Mr. Brower always contended that in this matter the red man was slandered—that the buildings were torn down and carried away by white settlers to the south and west, the materials being used to build new houses. Among the buildings destroyed were a Catholic church near where the depot now stands and a convent near the present site of the Baptist church. This may be said to have ended the first twenty years of the history of Todd county.

## A COURAGEOUS PIONEER.

It is impossible now to chronicle much of the history of that period, but several interesting incidents have been handed down. General Van Cleve, who has been mentioned as a resident agent of the Long Prairie Land Company, was a West Point graduate, but how he came to quit the army and enter civil life is not known. He was well qualified for military life, especially on the frontier, and it could not have been for lack of courage or love of ease, as he spent his early years on the frontier or in the Civil War. He entered the War of the Rebellion as a colonel and was breveted general for brave conduct at the battle of Wilson's Creek. He was a trained athlete and could jump nimbly over a pole held as high as his chin and he knew no such thing as fear. While agent here, at one time a party of Sioux Indians chased a Chippewa girl named Susie Roy, who was employed as a domestic in his family—several of them following her into his house—where she sought his protection. He was alone, but by his boldness, cowed the Indians so they left the girl and family unmolested. The same party, on going down the prairie, met a lone Chippewa near the old school house site whom they shot, and placed his body in an upright position in a pile of rails. Van Cleve's boys noticed a gun protruding from the rails and on examination found the Indian's body decapitated and the head scalped.

A man named John Bailey opened a saloon outside the agency, across east of the hill near the present site of the Hilger farm house and whisky was sold to the Indians in violation of the law. Van Cleve, with others of the agency, went out to suppress the traffic by force—the only way possible at the time. In the fracas that occurred a Mr. Barnum, from Little Falls, was stabbed and the tradition is that the wound was inflicted by H. C. Hewes. It was not serious, however, and Barnum soon recovered. He was justice of the peace in Little Falls and was afterward mobbed by a party of toughs, who resented some decision of his as justice of the peace. A short time after the trouble here, Van Cleve was at a hotel in Little Falls and overheard a party upstairs planning to go to Long Prairie and mob the men who had interfered with the whisky deal. He was a stranger to the men and could have escaped, but instead, he walked in among the crowd and told his name saying they could settle the trouble with him then and there without going to Long Prairie. He was able by his undaunted bearing to defy the whole crowd and they left off their proposed raid on Long Prairie.

Mrs. Van Cleve visited Long Prairie some twenty-five years ago and

in a public address told of one winter spent here when their stock of provisions was exhausted except for a supply of wheat. By accident, some broken glass got mixed with the grain and the family had to pick over the wheat a kernel at a time, to separate from it the particles of glass. This wheat they boiled and ate as their sole article of diet, the roads being blocked with snow preventing communication with the outside world. During the time the Van Cleve family resided in Long Prairie, their youngest son was born.

During the early days, James Martin carried the mail to the agency from Little Falls. He afterward settled on a farm three miles east of Pillsbury in what is now Morrison county. About the year 1872 a murder occurred near his house, the result of a quarrel over a game of cards, and as a result of the tragedy he became insane and committed suicide.

The last company agent in Long Prairie was a Mr. Weakly, who was city bred and in no way fitted for the place. Probably as a result of his incompetence as well as the breaking out of the Civil War, the Long Prairie Land Company abandoned the place and let the town go to destruction. David Olmstead was an early resident of the town, being an Indian trader, and was elected to the state Senate in 1848. He got lost in the woods between the town and the Mississippi at one time and wandered about a whole week, finding his way out of the wilderness by following down the stream of Two Rivers. David Day was a resident of Long Prairie in the early fifties and was elected to the Legislature in 1852, and was made speaker when the house organized.

#### ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES.

In the foregoing sketch wherever Todd county is mentioned, it has reference to the present boundaries. Originally the county extended east to the Mississippi river and the division occurred in 1864 when a vote was taken on the proposition to take two tiers of townships from Todd and add them to Morrison county. Since the larger number of voters lived along the Mississippi river the vote was in favor of division. A. D. Brower was appointed by Governor Miller to hold the election and he went with Henry Ellingson, William Overman and James Brower to West Union, where the ballots were deposited in a cigar box. There were eighteen votes there against division, but the settlers in the eastern district cast twenty ballots in favor of division.

After the Indians had been conquered, and all danger from that source was ended, the permanent settlement of the county began. A few families who had fled from their homes at the uprising of the savages returned and became permanent residents of the county. Among these were A. H. Gibson, of Bear Head; Peter Losey and H. C. Hewes, of Round Prairie, and C. E. Buss and perhaps others in the southwestern part of the county. At the outbreak some families sought safety in the stockade at Sauk Centre, which was guarded by three or four companies of soldiers under command of Capt. Oscar Tayler, afterward a prominent lawyer of St. Cloud, while others, mainly from Round Prairie, took flight to the settlements along the Mississippi river, which were protected by a military force at Ft. Ripley.

Of all the men and women who lived here before the outbreak and passed through the terrors of that brief period, none are now living, except it may be H. C. Hewes and wife. A few of the younger generation who were then children are still residents of Todd county. Among such may be named Mrs. William E. Lee, formerly Miss Eva Gibson; Mrs. L. B. Branch of Round Prairie, formerly Miss Carrie Losey, and Charles Losey, a brother, and possibly a few others. The writer cannot say what became of W. W. Tuttle and family, but it is known that he lived several years in Little Sauk, and that his daughter, Bertha, was one of the first white children born in the county, Mary Hewes being the other. They were born on the same day in Long Prairie, June 14, 1858.

Philo Farnum and family had settled on what many years ago was known as the Lawson farm, on the road from Long Prairie to Round Prairie, and this family was among those who had to flee for their lives. It cannot here be stated how long Mr. Farnum was a resident of the county, but at one time a band of predatory Chippewa Indians broke into his house and robbed it of such articles as they could make use of, presumably during the time the family were absent on account of the Sioux hostilities.

New settlers were few and far between until the close of the Civil War, when the energies of the nation were turned from destructive warfare of brother against brother and the armies of peace began conquest of the great West. The formation of school districts may throw some light on where the settlements were first effected. District No. 1 is located in the southern part of Round Prairie township in the vicinity of the Sergeants and it is here that probably the first neighborhood was formed. Possibly the next settlements were made in the southern and southwestern parts of the county around Fairy Lake, in the townships of West Union and Gordon.

## OLD LONG PRAIRIE AND MISSISSIPPI ROAD.

Like the flow of water, the currents of new settlements are influenced by the lay of the land and the natural obstructions that may stand in the way. At this time there was a wagon road from Long Prairie to the Mississippi, which had been opened by the government, after the agency had been established, at a cost of thirty thousand dollars; and there was also a wagon road from Round Prairie to Sauk Center, following in a general way, the old Indian trail. It was easy also for teams to travel down the prairie on the east side of Long Prairie river, as far as the mouth of Turtle creek and also up the south side. The old stage road from St. Cloud to Ft. Abercrombie, passed through the southwestern portion of the county, near the line between the forest lands and the big prairies, and open lands along the streams determined the first settlements. The data concerning the new settlements are somewhat conflicting. W. W. Tuttle, who figures in the early history of Long Prairie village, removed to West Union in 1859 or 1860 and found living there George Gurney, C. E. Buss, George Smith, Joseph Jordan, John Kerr, Jesse Dapper, Jerry Stone, and a Mrs. Gordon, with their families. This being before the outbreak, it is not known how many of these first settlers returned after hostilities ceased, but it is certain that Buss, Smith, Kerr and Stone lived in the vicinity many years later. C. F. Bohall, H. F. Lashier and S. M. Herbert, old timers in public affairs of the county, are named as pioneers of West Union, and Byron King and George Herberger were prominent names in that town in an early day.

Settlements also sprung up in the region of Fairy Lake in the town of Kandota between 1860 and 1865, and among the first inhabitants are the names of Rev. John Jones—father of J. D. Jones—A. D. Hale, A. B. Stinchfield and Theodore Belden. J. O. Milne was an early resident of Kandota and represented the old Forty-first district in the Senate of Minnesota from 1870 to 1872. East of Sauk Lake a few settlers came in 1865 and five years later the town of Birchdale was comparatively well settled. Among the first in this section were John Dimon, Charles Finkley, Joseph Rowell, Royal Smith, L. S. Bishop, William Hartung, Martin Peters, L. L. Matterson, A. P. Fuller and Edmund Finney. Further east in what is now Grey Eagle, settlement was somewhat later, but sometime between 1865 and 1870 there came in John A. Robins, Alexander Young, Ferdinand Trace, J. M. and J. A. Huffman, Rev. Thompson and son, S. S. Thompson, Alonzo Clark, and Edmond Callahan.

## ROUND AND LONG PRAIRIE SETTLEMENTS.

The early settlements in the vicinity of Round Prairie and Long Prairie are better known, however, than those along the southern border of this county. In 1863 Peter Losey returned to his farm on Round Prairie and by 1865 several families had located in that section. Henry Elingson and William Overman took claims in sections 7 and 8 and these two were the first homestead entries made at the St. Cloud land office. They were both soldiers in the Civil War. Samuel Sergeant and family came in 1865 to be followed soon by William Russell, David Matthews, William McCarrahan, E. B. Rice, William DeLuryea, William May, Daniel Harsh, A. T. Tracy, H. H. Scott, and Charles Hamlin, all familiar names in the early days of that section.

Later on the timber lands of east Round Prairie were taken up largely by French and German emigrants among which were Oliver Peltier, J. B. Monnier and Mr. Brooks of the former nationality, and Paul Hansmann, Ferdinand Kaercher and the Fausts of the latter.

About 1864 Dan Bosworth, a typical frontiersman, settled about a mile west of Long Prairie village and soon after came H. Venewitz, who built a house on the block which now is occupied by L. M. Davis. This house is still standing, but not on its original site. Venewitz put up a saw-mill and a flouring-mill on the stream west of the sidetracks and near where the elevators now stand. His son Philip is still a resident of this county, operating a meat shop at Browersville. Bosworth later took a homestead in Hartford where he remained until his death some thirty years ago.

In 1865 came to this vicinity Michael and George Dinkel, H. Strum, Samuel and Benjamin Meyer, C. Haaser and Henry Stevens, all Germans, who took farms near the village, most all becoming permanent residents. After Venewitz, in 1867, S. P. Chandler and Jacob Fisher opened a general store on the present site of Kulstad's laundry and this firm—John Wait afterward becoming a partner—was for many years the leading business firm of the town and county. Ignatius Reichart opened a hotel, in 1869, in a small log building on the site of the present Hotel Reichert and about the same time Charles Harkens started another general store where hundreds of old timers in the county bought their supplies. For some three or four years these three business concerns were the only ones in the village. Settlers then commenced to come in too fast to be of interest to enumerate here.





METHODIST CHURCH, LONG PRAIRIE



HOTEL REICHERT, LONG PRAIRIE



## SETTLERS IN THE WHITEVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD.

In 1865 began the settlements up the river west of Long Bridge and also down towards the north, L. S. Hoadley, Albert Madison and Garret Butler took up land five miles west of the village, Mr. Madison having become acquainted with the country during his service as a soldier. Horace Pierce and Gardner McClafling came in with Hoadley and Madison to look at the country and they also settled the next year. This was the original "Whiteville" settlement so named for Mrs. Hoadley, Mrs. Madison and Mrs. Pierce, who were sisters and whose maiden name was White.

In July, 1866, Benjamin Maynard came on foot from Elk river, the end of the railroad at that time, and filed on land up the river beyond Whiteville and built a cabin to be occupied by his family later in the season. Maynard was a soldier in the Union army and being a native of Kentucky, he concluded that he could not live among his old neighbors, most of whom were in sympathy with the Southern cause. He was mustered out of service at Louisville and came up here without going home. About the same time, Elijah, Joseph and Samuel Porter, also Kentuckians, settled in that locality. For about three years newcomers poured into that section and took up land mostly along the river, as far up as the western border of the county. Among these were William McGuire, I. N. Ely, James Davis and others from Kentucky. Albert and Dan Allee, Linus and A. M. Doty, Thomas Simmonds, J. Newville, C. H. Taylor, Jonas and Z. V. Booth, J. S. McCay, William Freeman, William Beach, John B. Leslie and far up the river John Bail. Of all these first settlers in that section not one is now living on his homestead, except A. M. Doty, but several of the families are represented by the younger generation.

## OTHER PIONEERS OF 1865 AND LATER.

In June, 1865, John Bassett came with his family and with a well-equipped outfit of horses and other stock and took land in Hartford, he being the first settler there, and four days later came James Landphere and W. H. Redfield. In August John Wait and George Case located on land near what is now called old Hartford. They built a bridge across the river, which was known as the Wait bridge for many years. Mr. Case soon abandoned his claim. William Powell came in a little later and settled on

the now well-known Charles Drill farm. The following season came George Pearmine, who was for years on the outskirts of civilization on his farm near present Clarissa. None came in there till in the seventies. Running down the east side of Long Prairie river from Long Prairie village, we find along in 1870-71, besides those named, Nicholas Rectenwald, Peter Pontius, D. Sdomy, Joseph Moore, R. H. Losey, L. W. Nickerson, Francis Pickins, William Neil, Thomas Laidlow, Henry Weitmeyer, Schuyler Closon, Mrs. Hermes, widow, William Shubert, Daniel Sanborn, Truman Tyrrell.

To the east of these along Turtle creek were N. Irsfeld, Thomas Mundry, S. J. Davis, William George, F. Cleveland, J. H. Scott, E. N. Perry. On the west bank of the river were Nicholas Pontius (still occupying his old homestead) Fred, Jacob and John Holler, Phillip Petrie, Otis Lanphere, Thomas Rambo, J. P. Weeks and two grown sons, Warren and Clark (whose original claims are a part of the farm afterward owned by Levi Whitesell), Richard Phillips, Fred Knarr, Louis Piepenburg, Charles O. and Carl Martin. In 1870 and 1871, came the seven Sarff brothers, Solomon Shull, John Gray, Joseph and E. J. Sutton and Lewis Sheets, all locating in a bunch to the north of the present site of Browerville and long known as the Hoosier settlement. Others came from Indiana later on, among them Barnhill Polly, A. Murphy, A. Cherry, John D. Nickey. Of these Indiana people, Joseph Sutton alone occupies the original homestead on which he first settled.

After that date, this section of the county was rapidly settled, largely by Germans and Americans of German parentage, Louis and Joseph Woell, Joseph Gruber, Ben and J. C. Borgert, John and Henry Becker, John and Ed. Host, Henry Speaker, William Disselbritt, William Smith, August and Carl Drawz and Frederick Zachow being familiar names.

#### FIRST POLISH COLONY.

A few settled along the river as far north as northern Moran, among them J. H. Cates, who kept a wayside inn in Moran, John Senti, Wallace and Lucian Wolff and Theodore and Philo Powell. All that portion of the county, comprising fourteen congressional townships, were included in the township organization of Hartford, and with the exception of the present two towns of Hartford and Ward, and the few settlers along the river road to Motley, that whole region was practically unsettled. George Pearmine was the only resident of the present town of Eagle Valley and R. V. Harris, of the present town of Iona, which was then a part of Reynolds. It was

about the year 1871 or 1872 when the first Polish settlers began to take up land in Hartford and within a few years along the Turtle Creek was a flourishing colony of these people. John Morzenzek, Joseph Zigan, Thomas Feist and Joseph Buhl were among the first of the Polish settlers.

On the eastern edge of the county no settlements were made except along the government road from Swan River to Long Prairie. Besides A. H. Gibson, mentioned previously as the first to settle in that vicinity, Albert Rhoda settled on the farm which he still owns in the year 1866, and George Balmer settled on his farm near the present site of Pillsbury soon after. David Burnham built a mill at the outlet of Swan Lake on the site of the present village of Pillsbury, which was then named Burnhamville and later this became a flourishing little hamlet, and the center of a thriving farming community.

A general store was established in 1875 by William E. Lee and R. H. Harkens and later when this store was moved to Long Prairie, Dr. J. Frank Locke carried on a general store business there, and also operated a flouring-mill. A woolen-mill also was in operation in the village for several years in the eighties and the early nineties. The Lee & Harkens store after being moved to Long Prairie, was run under the firm name of William E. Lee Company, and Doctor Locke also some years later came to Long Prairie where he has since resided. Both these individuals have been prominent in the public affairs of the county. For many years Charles Smith also operated a general store in the village. Among the early settlers in that section were Charles D. Krousey, Jabez Merrill, Duncan McCrae, John Stoll, Maxim Pepin, H. W. Twitchell and Charles Perley.

Further to the west in that section Jeremiah Adams, C. D. and E. Batchelor were early settlers on Bear Head creek, the Batchelors operating a saw- and shingle-mill for several years.

Another little community must have sprung up at an early date along the northwestern shore of Lake Osakis, as a school district was organized there, being a joint district with the territory partly in Douglas county. Seth Curtis was an old-time resident in that locality and his son, Oliver Curtis still resides on the old farm which is devoted largely to fruit culture.

#### COMING OF THE RAILROAD.

The settlement of the northwestern towns is of comparatively recent date. About the years 1875 James, Isaac and Amos Stowe left the Ken-

tucky settlement west of Long Prairie and took up land along Wing river in what is now Stowe Prairie. In 1877 there was quite a settlement in that section, among the pioneers being C. H. Ward, Chancy Wilcox, David Bennett, George Penny, M. L. Hinman, John Kelly, C. C. Lane, "Pap" Powell and Hy. Hewitt. Further up the Wing river, Henry Bottemiller opened a large farm and also John Riggs and family settled near the present site of the village of Bertha. S. H. Hamilton and Paul Steinbach were the pioneers of the present town of Germania and for several years there were no settlers living between Steinbach's farm in northern Germania and the Pearmine place on Eagle Creek. The present town of Wykeham and Burleene were unsettled except by J. H. Thompson and J. B. Leslie in the south of the latter and a Mr. R. Barnum, a single man, who lived in solitude on a claim in western Wykeham. Eagle Bend was only a bend in the stream. About 1880 or 1881, Manassas Sarff with his family, moved from Ward township to the Eagle Bend vicinity and about the same time, B. F. Abbott and family settled on the land now the town site of the village. When the railroad was built to that point there soon sprang up a flourishing village and the land was rapidly taken in that section and settled by permanent residents.

The building of the railroad resulted also in the location of Browersville and Clarissa and the rapid settlement of the lands all along the line. B. F. Abbott, J. H. Thompson and C. G. Odell opened stores in Eagle Bend, which were among the first business institutions. A. H. Odell, F. Nutting & Son and J. V. Glann were among the pioneer business men of Clarissa, the former doing a large business in shipping cordwood for several years. In Browerville, Perry & Scott opened the first store, moving it from old Hartford when Browerville was platted in 1882 and this firm is still in business there. D. C. Davis also established a general store, but soon went out of business, R. H. Harkens and afterward C. E. Harkens succeeding him. William Kahlert opened a general store in 1883 or 1884, which is still running under the management of the Kahlert Brothers. When C. E. Harkens closed his business in Browerville, Sutton & Hart established a general store on the same site in 1887 and this business grew to the present establishment of the Hart Brothers.

#### TOWN OF STAPLES.

The largest town in the county is Staples, although one of the youngest, on the Northern Pacific railroad. This town grew up as a result of the Northern Pacific cut-off being built in 1885 from Little Falls in order to

shorten the run from St. Paul to the coast. It is almost wholly dependent on the business incident to the railroad traffic, the population being largely made up of railroad employees. Staples furnishes a good market for vegetables and small fruits as well as eggs, poultry and dairy products, and many farms in the north end of the county are devoted largely to this line of production. This cut-off also brought into existence the village of Philbrook, which was laid out by B. F. Hartshorn, an early settler of Motley. Joseph Smith and Mr. Phelps were among the first business men of this town. It is the trading place of a rather sparsely settled farming country, but being well within the Cuyuna iron district it has a fine prospect of being a prominent business center of the future.

The people who now make up the population of the county are typical of the American people, generally. They represent many of the older states, as well as European countries. There are the New Englanders or descendants from the old Pilgrim stock and people from New York and other eastern states, as well as large numbers from the great middle west. A large percentage of the people are Germans or Americans of German parentage and this nationality is more numerously represented in the towns of Long Prairie, Hartford, Ward, Moran, Germania and Bertha. The Scandinavians (often called the Yankees of Europe), began to settle in Little Sauk, Gordon and Kandota about 1870, although a few came at an earlier date. Peter Peterson, John Peterson, Mons Anderson, Jens Johnson, Andrew Johnson and John Olson are names of old settlers in Little Sauk and Gordon. Later a large number of this nationality settled in Iona, Eagle Valley, Wykeham, Ward and other towns of the central portion of the county. The Polish settlers have already been mentioned. In northern Ward and southern Moran there is a large settlement of Bohemians and these people have built a hall in which to meet and observe the customs of their native land and to celebrate the holidays of their adopted country. There are also quite a sprinkling of French settlers near Clarissa and in Round Prairie. The Irish are also in evidence in Todd county, as in every new country. It is noticeable that the children of all these various races show a marked tendency to amalgamate—to be, in fact, one race.

#### REWARD OF INDUSTRY.

In all sections of the county the energies of the first settlers were directed to the opening of farms and the cultivation of the soil, and those who were

reasonably industrious and prudent were eminently successful. In every neighborhood among those who commenced to build homes in an early day, can be found many well-to-do farmers and it is also equally true that many who have bought lands more recently, have been quite successful. But other industries were not neglected. There were numerous saw-mills. A mill was built near the mouth of Turtle creek about the year 1875, by John Barnes, which was afterward purchased by James Hart. After operating the mill for several years, Mr. Hart sold out to C. A. and Eben Jones, who run the mill until the pine timber within reach of it was used up. A large section of central Todd county was supplied with lumber from this mill and back in the later seventies it was the chief source of lumber supply for Long Prairie.

About the year 1880 F. LaHatte built a mill on Lake Beauty in the town of Bruce and J. M. Harrington at Coal Lake, six miles east of Browerville, and these two mills cut from a half million to a million feet of lumber a year for about ten years. In 1874, Getchell, Hayford & Teller built a saw-mill two miles west of the village, which was afterward purchased by Chandler, Fisher & Wait, who also erected a flouring-mill which was known for many years as Wait's mill. The mill was destroyed by fire along in the nineties and was never rebuilt. Alexander Moore, of Sauk Centre, built a grist-mill at Little Sauk about 1868 or 1869, which afterward came into possession of W. and John McNeice and most of the farmers of Todd county for ten or fifteen years, got their milling done at this mill.

In 1882 or 1883 F. Nutting & Son built a saw-mill and grist-mill at Clarissa where an immense amount of timber was manufactured into ties and bridge timber for railroad building. There are at present several modern flouring-mills in the county located at Long Prairie, Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend, Bertha and Hewitt.

#### ATTEMPTS AT RIVER TRAFFIC.

Todd county was without railroad facilities of any consequence during all its early history, which retarded growth and settlements in much of its territory. Previous to 1873, St. Cloud was the nearest railroad station and from that town all immigrants had to move by teams. In 1872 the Northern Pacific was built from Duluth to Fargo and cut through the northeastern corner of the county and the village of Motley, just across the county line in



Morrison county, became the shipping station for the grain and some other products of the farm from Long Prairie and all settlements to the north.

As most farms were devoted exclusively to wheat culture, it was tedious and expensive work to market the crop by wagons. About the year 1874, John Bassett built a boat by means of which he carried his grain down Long Prairie river to a landing near Motley, the capacity being about three hundred bushels. The boat floated down the current with the load, and was brought back by means of poles. Four men with long poles, pushed the boat up stream by walking from prow to stern, two at a time, one on each side, while the other two walked forward to take their turn when the two poling the boat reached the stern. A fifth man at the tiller held the boat in her course. The round trip was made in three days, from the Bassett farm on the river east of Browerville.

In 1875 Chandler, Fisher & Wait built a steamboat, which was operated two or three years in carrying produce from Long Prairie to Motley. The capacity was little more than that of the Bassett boat, as the machinery made up a considerable portion of the displacement, but during the spring and summer floods, the boat was quite a convenience. The boat was built and fitted up at Motley by John Wait, H. H. Morrell and David Burnham. Mr. Wait, who represented the forty-first legislative district in the Legislature, secured an appropriation of two thousand five hundred dollars to clear the channel of the river from rocks and other obstructions. But dry seasons came and the river was no longer navigable and in 1877 the boat was dismantled. If this steamboat was not a financial success it gave the people some agreeable excitement for the time and forms an interesting incident in the history of the county.

## CHAPTER III.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TODD COUNTY.

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#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

Prior to 1864 that portion of Morrison county now lying west of the Mississippi river belonged to Todd county, and was set off by a vote of twenty to eighteen, the same being decided at a general election.

Todd county was organized in 1867, Governor Marshall having appointed A. D. Brower, William H. Redfield, and J. M. Gordon, commissioners. These gentlemen met at Long Prairie on January 1, 1867, and adjourned to meet the same day at the residence of A. D. Brower on Round Prairie. S. P. Fuller, clerk of the court of Morrison county, was present and administered the oath of office, Todd county having been attached to Morrison county for judicial purposes, in 1857. A. D. Brower was appointed chairman and the board proceeded to appoint county officers to hold until the following fall election. The appointments were J. V. Brower, auditor, whose compensation was fixed at three hundred dollars per year; Charles H. Hamlin, treasurer; H. H. Scott, sheriff; Henry Elingson, register of deeds; William H. Redfield, judge of probate; and James S. Brower, surveyor.

At that date the office of county school superintendent had not yet been created, hence each town had its own "school examiner."

The county was divided into three commissioner's districts—No. 1, included the northern sixteen townships in the county; No. 2, the southeastern nine townships, except the territory west from Sauk Lake, which was put in district No. 3, along with the southwestern three townships.

March 12, 1867, districts were organized into three townships (civil), No. 1 being Hartsford, No. 2, Long Prairie, and No. 3, West Union. In a short time township elections were ordered and were held in these three sub-divisions of the county. Eight school districts were at the same meeting set off, No. 1 being Round Prairie; No. 2, 3, 4, and 5, in the south-

western section, where West Union and Gordon are now situated; No. 6 was in the present township of Kandota; No. 7, was west of Long Prairie on the river, in what is now Reynolds township, and No. 8 in Hartford. This practically organized Todd county into a working form of civil, local government. The lands were nearly all government property, hence the office of township assessor was not burdened with cumbersome cares and his duties not in the least hard to perform.

#### FIRST ELECTION.

At the first annual election in Todd county not all officers were elected but as far as the record shows the following were elected: J. V. Brower, auditor; C. E. Buss, treasurer; E. S. Fancher, sheriff; J. J. Crouse, judge of probate; and L. D. Fonda, clerk of the court. It is supposed that E. E. Abbott was chosen first register of deeds.

The record shows that the first officers were appointed at the January meeting of the commissioners in 1867 and were as follow: Henry Elingson, register of deeds; C. S. Hamlin, treasurer; H. H. Scott, sheriff; J. S. Brower, surveyor.

The first auditor received \$300 per year salary. It was ordered by the county board that all offices in the county should be kept at the homes of the officers, until such times as they could be provided with suitable quarters. It is found by record that the auditor kept his office at the house of A. D. Brower.

The minutes of the board of commissioners show the first bills allowed were as follow: S. P. Fuller, for services in organizing Todd county, \$25; for horse hire for Fuller, \$5.00; incidentals for Fuller, \$3.00; A. D. Brower for services as county commissioner, \$9.00; mileage, \$0.96; for money furnished, \$1.60; incidentals, \$2.00; W. H. Redfield, for affecting organization of Todd county, \$13.20; as commissioner, \$9.00; for his mileage, \$1.80; J. M. Gordon, services as commissioner, \$9.00; mileage, \$3.48.

At the January, 1868, meeting of the board, the *St. Cloud Journal* was declared the official paper for Todd county. In January, 1869, the board petitioned the Legislature to allow the county officers to hold their respective offices at their own homes until a date not later than January 1, 1870. It also asked the Legislature to allow bonds issued by the Todd county commissioners with which to secure necessary blank books for the county to the sum of \$400.

September, 1869, the board voted to meet next time at Long Prairie at a place to be decided upon later. On September 11, 1869, the first county school superintendent was appointed in the person of John Kerr, of Gordon township; his salary was \$50 per year. On January 1, 1870, a fire-proof safe was ordered for the county at an expense of \$250.

#### FIRST COURT HOUSE.

The county was given a court house at the February meeting of the board and the following was the tender made: "We the undersigned hereby agree to tender to the board of county commissioners for the use of this county *forever*, the building standing upon the tract of land occupied by the liberty pole which house is owned by citizens of Long Prairie, which it is understood will be conveyed to the county as soon as practicable. (Signed) BUILDING COMMITTEE. July 5, 1870."

This building proposition was at once accepted by the county board. In the spring of 1870 all county officers were ordered to take the effects of their several offices to Long Prairie, the designated county seat. On January 5, 1870, the county contracted with Chandler & Fisher for \$10 to paint with lime mortar the inside of the building known as the "County Building" at Long Prairie, to the ceilings and also to bank up same, the amount to be paid in Todd county warrants.

On January 5, 1870, a \$30 heating stove was ordered purchased, the same to take in three-foot cordwood sticks. Two cords of hard maple wood were also contracted for at \$2 per cord. At the same board meeting L. D. Fonda was appointed from Hartford township to act as school superintendent, he to take his office April 1, 1870. In June, 1870, the board ordered the roof repaired to the county building; also some record books for the various officers were provided for. It appears that Mr. Fonda declined to serve as school superintendent and the board then appointed John Jones.

The first mention of relief for the unfortunate poor within the newly organized county was at the April meeting of the board, in 1870, when \$50 was appropriated for such humane purposes. At the March, 1870, meeting the commissioners appropriated \$150 for the making of proper plats and field notes for the county.

## EARLY FINANCES.

In September, 1870, the county treasurer was "examined" and he made the following showing of the finances of Todd county:

Legal tender notes on hand -----	\$1,618.88
County orders on revenue funds -----	678.20
County orders on bridge fund -----	250.00
County orders for poor -----	41.35
Town orders -----	136.58
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Total -----	\$2,725.01

In 1871, H. F. Lashier was appointed school superintendent. At the board meeting, January 6, 1875, it was ordered that the Todd County Academy be allowed free use of the old court house till they might procure better quarters. The same meeting the board ordered a safe for the register of deeds, the same costing \$240. In 1884 the board bought thirty cords of maple wood (green) at \$2 per cord, four-foot length. In 1890 the commissioners purchased for \$100 enough iron marking posts to mark the corner of each congressional township in the county. In 1897 the minutes show the board ordered a retaining wall erected about the court house square.

Among the early-day items found in the minute-books of the commissioners are the following: In 1875 the board offered a bounty of three cents a quart for all grasshoppers that might be caught and killed within this county. William Neil, of Hartford township, was appointed to act in conjunction with the various township clerks, as measurers of the little winged pests, then doing damage in many sections of this state. This was paid from what the books show to be the "Grasshopper Fund." Again in 1879, at the meeting of the board, it was decided that no penalty or interest should be collected on the taxes which had not been paid in 1875 and 1876, on account of the ravages of the grasshoppers in Todd county.

In 1908 the county bonded itself for \$50,000—ten-year, five per cent. bonds—for drainage purposes.

## COURT HOUSE AND JAIL HISTORY.

As has already been stated the first court house accommodations were provided in Todd county by a donation of a building at Long Prairie in

1870. The next move made is shown by the minute books of the county commissioners, dated March 21, 1873, when bids were advertised for the building of a court house, which was to be a substantial frame structure two stories high and thirty-four by forty feet in size. It was to be completed not later than November 1, 1873, and not to cost in excess of \$2,500. Payment was to be made in county warrants. It was stipulated that the building should be erected on block No. 13 in Long Prairie; \$800 was payable on October 10, 1873; \$500 by March 1, 1874; and \$700 by July 1, 1874.

The bidders were as follow: Charles Herkens, \$3,280; Joseph Poquin, \$2,700; and G. V. B. Williams, \$2,499. Williams was awarded the contract and he finished the work and it was approved and legally accepted on September 15, 1873. This building served well the purpose for which it was intended until 1883, when more talk was heard of needing better court house facilities. At the January session of that year, a building committee was appointed, with Thomas Ward as chairman of the board of county commissioners. M. J. Martin was then serving as county auditor.

May 2, 1883, bonds were issued for \$25,000 with which to erect the present court house. It was erected and accepted from the hands of the builders on November 17, 1883. Samuel Lee was made superintendent of the work of construction. A bid was had for building the structure for \$20,000 and this was accepted. It is a fine brick building, with all necessary office rooms and well heated and lighted by modern equipments.

The present county jail was built, with the apartments for the jailor, from plans submitted in July, 1900. It is also a modern building with a slate roof and all needed interior fixtures to meet the modern-day requirements as to safety and health.

#### POOR-FARM EXPERIMENT.

Todd county used to care for her poor people who needed aid by a general county fund for that purpose, but about 1880-81 it was deemed best to secure land and improve it with buildings and keep all paupers thereon. This was tried for a number of years, but without success. In 1895 the property was sold and the county plan obtained again and so continued until January 1, 1915, when it was decided to let each township in the county care for its own paupers, which is now being done in a satisfactory manner.

## ASSESSED VALUATION—1914-15.

The various townships in Todd county had at the last assessment, valuations as follow: Bartlet, \$320,225; Bertha, \$359,981; Birchdale, \$225,321; Bruce, \$204,789; Burnhamville, \$242,443; Burleene, \$274,306; Eagle Valley, \$362,573; Fawn Lake, \$145,344; Germania, \$277,600; Gordon, \$284,421; Grey Eagle, \$144,175; Hartford, \$323,116; Iona, \$317,410; Kandota, \$174,692; Leslie, \$308,085; Little Elk, \$161,896; Little Sauk, \$298,780; Long Prairie, \$370,148; Moran, \$250,045; Reynolds, \$352,234; Round Prairie, \$307,836; Staples, \$223,500; Stowe Prairie, \$318,407; Turtle Creek, \$138,385; Villard, \$289,986; Ward, \$322,367; West Union, \$267,647; Wykeham, \$325,901. Total, \$7,578,613.

The various villages, towns and cities of the county had the following valuations at the last assessment—1914: Bertha village, \$128,185; Browerville, \$122,401; Burtrum, \$36,326; Clarissa, \$83,411; Eagle Bend, \$11,422; Grey Eagle, \$56,818; Hewitt, \$85,182; Long Prairie, \$450,333; Osakis, that portion within Todd county, \$14,737; West Union, \$60,571; Staples city, \$468,856.

The grand total of township and villages, in assessed valuations, is according to the above footings, \$9,196,855.

## EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS OF COUNTY—1915.

E. M. Berg, auditor, receives a salary of \$2,000 per year. August Stephan, treasurer, receives a salary of \$2,000 per year. Peter O. Scow, clerk of the court, receives a salary of \$1,000 per year. E. A. Lewis, judge of probate, receives a salary of \$1,800 per year. Anton Johnson, sheriff, receives a salary of \$1,200 per year. A. B. Church, county attorney, receives a salary of \$1,400 per year. Victor S. Knutson, school superintendent, receives a salary of \$2,850 per year. John S. Long, jailor, receives a salary of \$900 per year. The three court reporters receive \$490 for services rendered. County commissioners, salary and mileage, \$1,500 per year. Janitor at court house, \$540 per year.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT ITEMS.

The last statement issued by the county auditor of Todd county contains as items the following:

*Receipts.*

Balance on hand January 1, 1914 .....	\$17,191
Taxes collected .....	26,549
Interest from funds in banks .....	3,562
Interest and funds in banks .....	3,562
Auctioneers' licenses .....	70
Peddlers' licenses .....	30
Ten per cent derived from liquor licenses .....	75
Fines collected by both courts .....	1,564
Wolf bounties from state treasurer .....	337
Rental of jury room .....	45
Filing fees .....	366
Sundries to make total .....	282
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Total .....	\$51,997.00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Salaries of county officers .....	\$12,200
Clerk hire for county officials .....	2,162
Jailor's salary .....	900
Janitor's salary .....	540
All court reporters' wages .....	490
Salary and mileage county commissioners .....	1,502
District court expenses .....	3,463
Boarding prisoners .....	248
Record books and supplies at courthouse .....	2,227
Legal printing .....	1,011
Water, lights and fuel .....	1,064
Election expenses .....	874
Balance to credit .....	25,316
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Total .....	\$51,997.00

The total school apportionment for 1914 amounted to \$155,468.



## CHAPTER IV.

### COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATION.

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#### CONGRESSMEN.

The list of congressmen who have represented Todd county since the apportionment of 1872 will be found under the representative chapter of the Morrison county section of this history, as the two counties have been in the same congressional district.

#### STATE SENATORS.

Since 1860 the state senators representing Todd county have been as follow: (The figures denote the session of the Legislature served in.) 1860, Seth Gibbs; 1862, William S. Moore; 1864, J. P. Wilson; 1865, J. P. Wilson; 1866, R. M. Richardson; 1867, Louis A. Evans; 1868, C. A. Gilman; 1869, C. A. Gilman; 1870, H. C. Wait; 1871, H. C. Wait; 1872, John O. Milne; 1873, J. G. Nelson; 1874, J. G. Nelson; 1875, H. G. Page; 1876, H. G. Gage; 1877, H. G. Gage; 1878, H. G. Gage; 1879, Andrew McCrea; 1881, Andrew McCrea; 1883, C. B. Buckman; 1885, C. B. Buckman; 1887, C. B. Buckman; 1889, C. B. Buckman; 1891, George Geissel; 1893, George Geissel; 1895, W. M. Fuller; 1897, W. M. Fuller; 1899, J. D. Jones; 1901, J. D. Jones; 1903, E. B. Wood; 1905, O. N. Mausten; 1907, James Johnson; 1909, James Johnson; 1911, James Johnson; 1913, James Johnson; 1915, James Johnson.

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

Since 1860 the representatives for Todd county have been: 1860, Thomas Cathcart, Levi Wheeler, P. S. Gregory; 1862, R. M. Richardson, Peter Roy, John Whipple; 1864, L. R. Bently, R. M. Richardson, H. C. Wait; 1866, R. M. Richardson, W. T. Rigby, C. A. Ruffee; 1868, Oscar

Taylor, Louis A. Evans, W. T. Rigby; 1866, N. F. Barnes, Thomas Cathcart, B. Overpeck; 1867, N. H. Miner, N. Richardson; 1869, Ludwig Robbers, William E. Hicks; 1868, D. G. Pettijohn, N. H. Miller; 1869, Ludwig Robbers, William E. Hicks; 1870, John L. Wilson, Isaac Thorson; 1871, W. S. Moore, Luke Marvin; 1872, E. E. Corliss, L. S. Cravath; 1873, J. V. Brower, William Felton; 1874, J. W. Mason, C. B. Jordan; 1875, Soren Listoe, R. L. Frazee; 1876, S. D. Comstock, John Wait; 1877, S. G. Comstock, A. McCrea; 1878, Andrew McCrea, Theodore Holton; 1879, S. G. Comstock, Michael Anderson; 1881, S. G. Comstock, B. Sampson; 1883, A. J. Demkules, G. G. Hartley, J. T. D. Sadley; 1885, J. R. Howes, J. T. D. Sadley, William E. Lee; 1887, W. E. Lee, J. C. Flynn, L. E. Lum; 1889, J. C. Flynn, W. A. Fleming, R. C. Dunn; 1891, H. C. Stiwers, Werner Hemsted, J. H. Sheets, E. E. Price; 1893, Robert C. Dunn, W. A. Fleming, William E. Lee, W. M. Fuller; 1895, J. D. Jones, B. F. Hartshorn, H. R. Mallette, A. F. Ferris; 1897, A. F. Ferris, J. D. Jones, B. F. Hartshorn, H. C. Head; 1899, L. W. Babcock, Harry Hazlett; 1901, L. W. Babcock, J. H. O'Neil; 1903, L. W. Babcock, Edward R. Hines; 1905, Asher Murray, Edward R. Hinds; 1907, L. W. Bills, William Dower; 1909, William Dower, E. R. Hinds; 1911, L. H. Rice, W. T. Stone; 1913, W. T. Stone, John Anderson; 1915, Levi M. Davis, Charles S. Wilkins.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

Owing to the absence of election returns the list of county officials is not complete from about 1879 back to the early days, when records seem to have been made for the time being only. From the secretary of state and from the Historical Society the following is all that can be learned along the line of Todd county officials:

#### COUNTY AUDITORS.

In 1879, H. F. Lashier was in office and held it until 1883; M. J. Martin, 1883 to 1885; Albert Rhoda, 1883 to 1899; J. J. Reichart, 1899 to 1901; Walter Peltier, 1901 to 1909; E. M. Berg, 1909 to 1919.

#### TREASURERS.

In 1879 C. E. Burr was in office and held it till 1883; F. C. Chase, 1883 to 1885; C. E. Burr, 1885 to 1891; John Peterson, 1891 to 1899; W. I.

Paine, 1899 to 1907; Henry Froelich, 1907 to 1913; August Stephan, 1913 and is the present treasurer, term expires in 1919.

#### SHERIFFS.

In 1879 F. C. Chase was sheriff and was succeeded by J. F. Bassett, 1881 to 1885; S. J. Davis, 1885 to 1887; George W. Maynard, 1887 to 1899; Joseph G. Harmes, 1899 to 1903; Charles Hamilton, 1903 to 1909; Anton Johnson, 1909 to present date, term expires in 1919.

#### REGISTER OF DEEDS.

In 1879 W. E. Lee was in office and was followed by J. I. Bell, who served till 1885; C. H. Ward, 1885 to 1893; Charles Harkins, 1893 to 1895; John Wait, 1895 to 1901; William J. Gutches, 1901 to 1909; H. C. Maynard, 1909 to present date, term expires in 1919.

#### JUDGES OF PROBATE.

In 1879 William O'Bryan was serving and was followed, in 1881, by L. S. Hoadley, who served till 1891; D. A. Tufts, 1891 to 1895; J. Frank Locke, 1895 to 1899; W. F. Callahan, 1899 to 1909; B. A. Lewis, 1909 to present date, term expires in 1917.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

In 1879 the county attorney was A. W. Crowell, who served till 1881; J. D. Jobs, 1881 to 1883; E. B. Wood, 1885 to 1891; R. E. Davis, 1891 to 1899; George W. Peterson, 1899 to 1909; Arthur L. Church, 1909 to present incumbent, William M. Wood, whose term expires in 1919.

#### COUNTY SURVEYORS.

In 1879 J. H. Sheets was in office; C. H. Ward, 1881 to 1885; S. S. Sergeant, 1885 to 1887; G. E. Keyes, 1887 to 1897; S. S. Sergeant, 1897 to present, term expires in 1919.

## CORONERS.

In 1879 the coroner was M. Nessline; he served till 1881; J. H. Cates, 1881 to 1893; John Nutting, 1893 to 1895; C. E. Harkens, 1895 to 1897; M. L. Murphy, 1897 to 1899; B. W. Parrott, 1899 to 1905; C. E. Reeves, 1905 to 1907; P. O. Scow, 1907 to 1909; E. P. Story, 1911 to 1913; John Markuson, 1913 to present, term expires in 1919.

## CLERKS OF THE COURT.

Charles Harkens was succeeded in 1883, by Jacob Fisher from 1883 to 1891; C. E. Harkins, 1891 to 1895; M. L. Smith, 1895 to 1897; C. E. Harkens, 1897 to 1899; P. O. Scow, 1899 to 1907; J. E. Withers, 1907 to 1909; N. Irsfeld, 1909 to 1911; P. O. Scow, 1911 to present date, term expires in 1919.

## COURT COMMISSIONERS.

M. L. Smith was holding this position in 1879 and in 1895 was followed by W. M. Barber; J. E. Withers, 1907 to 1909; N. Irsfeld, 1909 to 1911; W. M. Barber, 1911; N. Irsfeld, present incumbent, term expires in 1919.

## SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

In 1879 A. Rhoda was superintendent, held till 1883; John Barnes, 1883 to 1887; W. M. Barber, 1887 to 1891; J. G. Mock, 1891 to 1895; Rudolph Dettler, 1895 to 1897; O. B. De Laurier, 1897 to 1901; George Peterson, 1901 to 1907; Bertha F. Roddis, 1907 to 1911; Victor S. Knutson, 1911 to present date, term expires in 1919.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

1893, Eli Woodman, Sid S. Taylor, M. Sarff, Henry Froelich; 1895, John W. Swanson, Sid S. Taylor, Henry Froelich, Louis Anderson; 1897, E. E. Greeno, J. W. Swanson, Ben Brever, Eli Woodman, Louis Anderson; 1899, E. E. Greeno, Henry Fraunt, Ben Brever, John Long, Louis Anderson; 1901, E. E. Greeno, Henry Fraunt, Fred Kemphenkel, John Long, Chris Heen; 1903, E. E. Greeno, E. A. Perkins, Fred Kemphenkel, J. C. A. Long; 1905, J. D. Marlin, E. A. Perkins, F. Kemphenkel, John Long, Chris

Heen; 1907, J. D. Marlin, Ed Paulson, F. Kemphenkel, Chris Herrman, Jr., Chris Heen; 1909, Ed H. Thiel, Ed Paulson, F. Kemphenkel, Chris Harrman, George E. Curtis; 1911, E. A. Thiel, Ed Paulson, F. Kemphenkel, J. J. Grimes, G. E. Curtis; 1913, C. A. Remillard, Ed Paulson, Charles J. Speiker, J. J. Grimes, G. E. Curtis. The board in 1915 is composed as follows: C. A. Remillard, runs to 1917; William F. Wieseke, to 1919; Charles J. Speiker, to 1917; Chris Hermann, to 1919; G. E. Curtis, to 1917.

#### PRESIDENTIAL VOTE OF TODD COUNTY.

1868, Grant, 161; Seymour, 35. 1872, Grant 399; Greeley, 201. 1876, Hayes, 446; Tilden, 297. 1880, Hancock, 361; Garfield, 664. 1884, Blaine, 758; Cleveland, 549; St. John (Prohi.), 57; Butler, 76. 1896, McKinley, 2,043; Bryan, 1,739. 1900, McKinley 2,212; Bryan, 1,487. 1904, Roosevelt, 2,961; Bryan, 741. 1908, Taft, 2,334; Bryan, 1,305; Prohibition, 163. 1912, Taft, 1,038; Wilson, 1,068.

## CHAPTER V.

### AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF TODD COUNTY.

Agriculture is the prime base for all earthly wealth. The state or county where farming and stock-raising pay is the wealthiest and best in which to reside and be a contented, happy person.

Five years ago there was only twenty-six per cent. of the land in Todd county under cultivation, and more than sixty per cent. of its agricultural resources remained undeveloped. Today there are thousands of broad acres of valuable, cheap land waiting the hand of enterprising men to develop its potential wealth.

Todd county was originally nearly all covered with a good growth of timber, save a narrow strip about two miles in width along Long Prairie river north into Moran township; a prairie in the northwest corner known as Stowe Prairie, and a prairie covering a portion of Gordon, West Union, and Kandota, with a small prairie in the west part of Round Prairie township. A great part of the once fine timber has been cut off and sawed into lumber, yet there are still many thousands acres of fairly good timber still standing, and a few mills are still operating in a small way. It was really the building of the railroads that made this section of Minnesota to blossom like the rose, in a commercial sense. Not until the Great Northern railroad went through, which was due to the large tract of timber lands held by that great railroad king—J. J. Hill—did this county possess advantages suitable to attract settlers.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The climate, soil, water and other advantages here found will ever attract men of means and brains to become partakers of blessings not found in many other sections of Minnesota. The small lakes of the county are valuable to the stock-farmer and dairyman. There are a few flowing wells within the county and water can be had at a shallow depth almost anywhere needed.

There are over twenty-seven thousand acres of water-covered area and at all points in the county water may be had at a depth of from twelve to fifty feet. It is of an excellent quality and relished by both man and beast.

Wheat, barley, oats, rye, flax, corn and all kinds of vegetables are produced with profit in Todd county. The potato and root crops are something wonderful. Clover and alfalfa are surprisingly large. To see clover standing nine feet high, as it does in many sections of Todd county, is indeed a sight once seen never to be forgotten. Again, there have frequently been made exhibits of mammoth red wheat standing nine feet high; Alsike clover, six and one-half feet; timothy, six feet, and corn eleven feet high—mark these figures on Todd county grains, corn and grasses.

The following is taken from a recent fair catalog: "A representative of the Sioux City (Iowa) Seed and Nursery Company was in Long Prairie yesterday looking for clover seed. He said his firm, which is one of the largest in the country, had bought their entire supply of clover seed from Todd county. He has shipped sixteen carloads from this county since last fall (1914). He says Todd county is a wonderful clover seed region, not only for the yield but for the superior quality. He said that nowhere in the United States did his firm know of a locality where they could buy such clover seed as in this part of Minnesota."

#### DAIRYING IN TODD COUNTY.

About twenty years ago there was not a single creamery in operation in Todd county, but today there are seventeen drawing patronage from the farms of the county. Twelve are situated within the limits of the county—these are at Long Prairie, Eagle Valley, Bertha, Browerville, Grey Eagle, Staples, Burleen township, Reynolds township, Round Prairie, West Union, Hewitt and Burtrum. None paid less four years ago than one hundred dollars per month to their patrons for milk and cream, while many patrons received as high as two hundred dollars per month.

The business has proven profitable to all concerned and yearly other creameries are starting. Some of these creameries are co-operative concerns, while others are independent and private concerns. The largest of these is found at Long Prairie. Holstein, Guernsey and Shorthorn cattle are usually used in this creamery system in Todd county. The best market for the immense tonnage of butter from these plants is the city of New York, where excellent prices obtain the year round.

## REPORT FOR JUNE 1910.

Five years ago this last June the following report was made officially for the Todd County Creamery—the single institution: Whole number of milk patrons, 199; number of hand separator patrons, 64; pounds milk received, 714,330; pounds cream received, 35,190; average test of milk, 3.78; average test of cream, 27.29; butter fat in milk, 27,114.5; butter fat in cream, 9,606.4; pounds of butter made, 44,785; butter sold to patrons, 1,297; paid for butter fat, net, \$0.31; per cent. overrun, .22. Receipts from butter sold, \$12,361.32; receipts for buttermilk sold, \$13.00. Total, \$12,374.32. Running expenses, \$655.65; sinking fund, \$366.20. Total paid patrons, \$11,352.47. This is one of the greatest industries ever launched in Todd county.

In 1915 the creameries of Minnesota have paid the farmers \$44,000,000 for their butter fat. In the annual contest Minnesota won six out of eight championships. This would indicate that the present farmer is getting wiser than those who continually persisted in raising grain. Former State Dairy Commissioner White said, "No county in Minnesota has shown the development along creamery and dairy lines the past few years that Todd county has."

Up to ten years ago the chief agricultural occupation of the people was the raising of small grain. Immense quantities of wheat, oats, barley and rye were raised. However, about a decade ago, new settlers coming in from the southern part of Minnesota and from Iowa realized the possibilities in the dairy industry here and established the first co-operative creamery plant. Since that date the industry has grown by leaps and bounds and really revolutionized the farming business hereabout. Local papers publish, free of charge, monthly statements of these creameries, together with a list of the larger patrons; so that it is no uncommon sight to find two and three columns of the papers filled with the names of farmers who during the month have been paid checks exceeding fifty dollars. Many are receiving one hundred dollars and not a few as high as two hundred dollars per month.

The following is the name of the creamery and the sum each paid out in 1914:

Creamery.	Amount.
Long Prairie -----	\$119,866.28
Bertha -----	113,537.53
Clarissa -----	107,932.38
Rose -----	54,550.82



Creamery.	Amount.
Grey Eagle -----	\$44,838.22
Round Prairie -----	38,533.54
Osakis -----	102,349.35
Sauk Centre -----	59,596.22
Wadena -----	86,889.91
Browerville -----	41,926.04
Eagle Bend -----	80,541.75
Hewitt -----	54,820.64
Swanville -----	63,461.85
Reynolds -----	47,032.93
Clotho -----	21,529.15
Verndale -----	68,924.10
West Union -----	45,320.10
Burtrum -----	12,832.03
Motley -----	47,526.13
Total -----	<hr/> \$1,208,008.97

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Todd county may well boast of its agricultural society and its annual "county fair;" the thirty-third meeting of which was held in September, 1915, at Long Prairie.

The Todd County Agricultural Society was organized in 1883 with officers as follow: John Wait, president; M. Rodman, vice-president; J. I. Belt, secretary; W. E. Lee, treasurer. The board of directors were as follow: J. F. Locke, Burnhamville township; A. H. Hendrickson, Kandota township; W. W. Powell, Long Prairie township; A. Murphy, Ward township; Thomas Ward, Stowe Prairie township; P. W. Fuller, Iona township; A. W. Sheets, Long Prairie.

The first fair offered and paid out premiums to the extent of only \$106.50; on horses they allowed premiums to the amount of \$8.50; on cattle, \$12.00, and on house plants, \$9.50.

The present grounds contain nineteen acres just at the village limits. A portion of this land was purchased by the society in 1884 and about 1909 the remainder was secured. The present value of grounds and improvements is ten thousand dollars. Fairs are always held early in September and are universally well attended, especially since horse-racing was placed

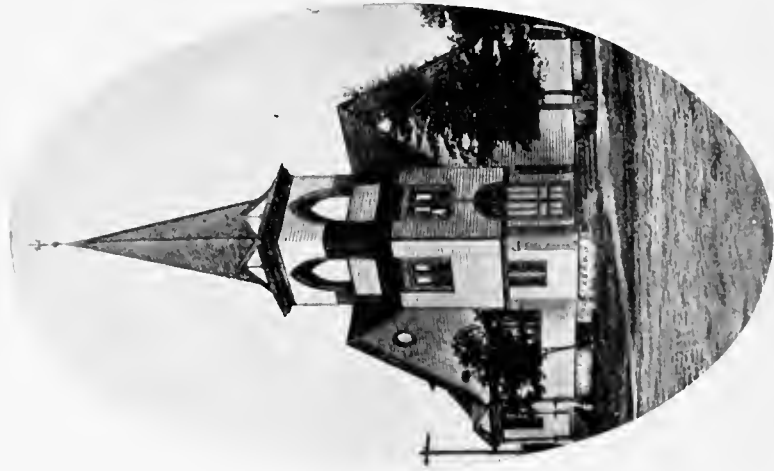
in its proper sphere and not allowed to predominate over other, larger and more valuable interests to farmer and business men. The state also has an exhibit annually and all counties in the state may compete; but other premiums are reserved for the toiling men and women of Todd county who most generously patronize and maintain the society.

The improvements on these grounds at Long Prairie include a good enclosure about the premises; a cement-block building for school exhibits—and here let it be said that the children of the public schools of Todd county have, by the interest taken in such things, revolutionized the county fair and when it was almost to go down, reached forth and restored it to strength and practical workings. Then there is a rest room, twenty feet square; a woman's building, forty feet square; two barns for cattle, thirty by one hundred feet; a barn for horses, thirty by one hundred feet; an agricultural hall, with dome sixty feet high, built in a cross shape, thirty-six by seventy-six feet from wing to wing. All these buildings except the woman's room and rest room are constructed of galvanized sheet-metal. There is also a good half-mile track and a base-ball diamond.

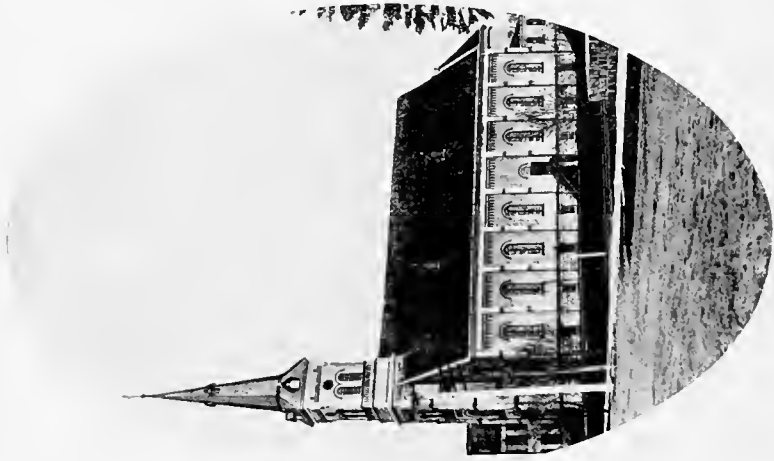
The receipts of the fair in 1914 were \$5,228; premiums paid, \$1,142. The present year's premiums are to be \$1,500. There has been expended in improvements in 1915, the sum of \$2,500. One full cattle barn is pledged to be filled with Holstein cattle of Todd county growth. This society is and always has been on the stock-company plant, two thousand dollars being the present amount of capital stock subscribed. It is free of debts. Fifty cents is the single adult admission to the grounds at fair time; children at twenty-five cents—free to all the first day. One dollar is the price for season tickets and twenty-five cents extra in the grand-stand. Teachers and school children are free on "school day."

Mr. Holmquist is the first paid secretary the society has ever had and it is believed that the move was a wise one, for he is doing excellent work and the recent fair bids fair to be one of the best in all the history of the county.



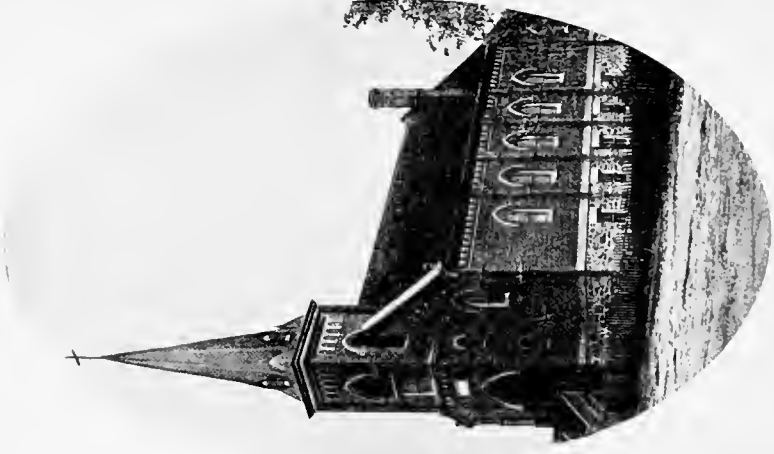


Presbyterian



Catholic

# LONG PRAIRIE CHURCHES



Lutheran

## CHAPTER VI.

### CHURCHES IN TODD COUNTY.

In Todd county, as in nearly all new counties, the school house was the first place for holding public worship by those religiously inclined. Prior to this, however, there had been prayer meetings held at the homes of Samuel Sergeant, C. S. Hamlin and Peter Losey, which was before the erection of a school house in Round Prairie township, which was the first in Todd county. It was built in the summer of 1866—a small log structure with board roof. It was here in the autumn of 1866 that was held the first public religious service by an ordained minister, Rev. Buck, of the Covenanter denomination, the leading sect at first in this county. Beyond doubt this people had a regular church society in 1867, and by this people the trend of religious thought was governed for many years.

In this school house was the first baptism in Todd county, and the person baptized was John R. Mathews. Between 1866 and 1870 several ministers occasionally visited this section of the country. Among them are recalled Reverends Cutler, Presbyterian; Peter Losey, Methodist exhorter, and other Godly men. In 1868 a larger school house was erected in Round Prairie and for a number of years church services were held there.

### FIRST CHURCH BUILDING.

Up to 1872 Todd county had no dedicated house of worship. It was during that year that a union church was built in what is now the village of Long Prairie. Later this building fell into the hands of the Baptists, who are still using it. For a number of years this was the only church building in the county.

In the early months of 1877, Rev. Dr. J. F. Locke, coming from New England on account of his health, settled in Burnhamville. After about a year his child died and there being no church building in the township, nor any minister aside from himself, he, in the open air on the lake shore conducted the funeral services.

At that date east from Pillsbury the nearest church was at Little Falls—twenty-five miles away. North, it was sixty miles; south, thirty miles; west, ten miles. Mr. Locke decided there must be a Congregational church formed at Pillsbury, Swanville, Burtrum, Grey Eagle, Round Prairie, Clarissa, Bertha and Staples, and in five years each place had a church built, dedicated and out of debt. Thus the seed was first sowed and in 1910 it was said there was not a township, and practically not a village in Todd county that was without a church building. Catholic, Congregational, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Christian, United Brethren, Episcopal, Lutheran, Free Methodist, Adventists and Christian all being thus represented. Not less than three hundred thousand dollars was expended by that date for church edifices. No county in Minnesota has a better church record than Todd. It has been remarked that the pioneer minister here was worth more to this county than all the politicians it ever produced.

Among the pioneer missionaries such names as John Jones, I. N. English, Peter Scott, C. W. Woodruff, George F. Morton, John Norris, J. F. Oherstein, Father Brender, D. H. Mason, W. G. Palmer, B. F. Kephart, J. F. Woodward, E. N. Ruddick, William Hitzmann and others were conspicuous for their good works.

In 1910 it was found that there were more than two thousand five hundred Sunday school scholars in Todd county, aside from Catholic and Lutheran denominations.

#### DENOMINATIONS NOW REPRESENTED.

The county had churches in 1911 as follow. At Long Prairie—Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Lutheran and Presbyterian.

Staples—Methodist, Congregational, Catholic, Adventists, Baptist and Episcopal.

Eagle Bend—Swedish Lutheran, Swedish Mission, Swedish Episcopal, Norwegian Lutheran and an English Methodist Episcopal.

Bertha—Congregational, Methodist Episcopal and German Lutheran.

Grey Eagle—United Brethren, German Lutheran, Congregational.

Browerville—Two Catholic, United Brethren and Christian.

Burtrum—Congregational and Free Methodist.

Clarissa—Catholic, Congregational, Norwegian Lutheran, Swedish Lutheran and Norwegian Synod.

West Union—Methodist and Roman Catholic.

Hewitt—Methodist Episcopal, United Brethren and Seventh Day Adventists.

Little Sauk—Swedish Lutheran.

Long Prairie—Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic and Presbyterian.

Also churches at the original starting point as before stated, at Round Prairie.

Since 1911 there have been other churches added to the already long list; hence it will be seen that Todd county is well equipped with churches of various denominations.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE.

Concerning the work of one single denomination, the minutes of the Methodist Episcopal Conference for 1914 show the following for Todd county: There were churches of this denomination in Todd county as follow: Eagle Bend, Hewitt and Bertha, Long Prairie, Staples and Clarissa.

At Long Prairie the church had a membership of seventy-eight; estimated value of church property, eight thousand dollars; Sunday school membership, one hundred and forty-six.

At Eagle Bend the membership was twenty-eight; estimated value of church property, two thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars; number in Sunday school, three hundred and thirty-six.

At Hewitt and Bertha charge the membership was one hundred and nine; estimated value of church property, six thousand five hundred dollars; number in Sunday school, two hundred and three.

At Staples the membership was two hundred and seventy-five; estimated value of church property, fifteen thousand dollars; number enrolled in Sunday school, three hundred and seventy.

#### OTHER CHURCH HISTORY.

The subjoined account of church life in Todd county is from the pen of an old settler and newspaper man, Mr. Sheets, who wrote in 1911 as follows:

"In the development of the county from its earliest settlement, the people did not devote all their attention to material progress alone, but the educational and religious interests kept even pace with that of industry. What was done on these lines previous to the Indian outbreak can only be

conjectured, but it is known that there was a Catholic church in Long Prairie early in the fifties and no doubt there were other religious organizations in the village. With the later and permanent settlement of the county, there is more certainty. So far as known, the first regular religious services were held in the new store building of Chandler & Fisher in the year 1868, conducted by Rev. John Jones, a Baptist minister living in what is now the town of Kandota. Services were held once a month until February, 1872, when death put an end to his labors. The Baptist church was organized in August, 1872, under the supervision of Rev. J. E. Wood, state missionary, and soon after—perhaps the following year—Rev. P. W. Fuller, of Maine, became resident pastor. He lived on a homestead in North Reynolds.

“The Catholics a little later got into the field. The first services were held in May, 1869, conducted by Father Buh, in the home of Mr. Venewitz. In the fall of the same year a log church was built and soon after, in 1871, a frame church building was erected on the site of the present imposing structure. Rev. John Schenk was the first resident priest, beginning his work in the year 1874. He was a true type of the frontier priest, living contented in a plain, rough building with rude furniture. Many will remember him as a man of austere bearing and little inclined to social life, but known to those who became acquainted with him to be quite companionable. He was studious and well educated. In 1876 the church numbered about one hundred and fifty families and was the place of worship for many Catholics living down the prairie towards the north as far as Moran brook. Many years ago the attendance was so large that on occasions of special interest, the members could not all be accommodated at one time in the church building. There are now two Catholic churches in Browerville, one maintained by the Germans, the other by the Polish people of that vicinity. The Polish church edifice in that town, erected last year, is the finest structure of the kind in the county, with the Catholic church building in Long Prairie, second.

#### A VERSATILE PIONEER PASTOR.

“The Methodists were also early in evidence and it is probable they were the first in the field, although there are no records to prove this. Reverend Barkaloo preached about once a month in the Whiteville settlement, west of Long Prairie, as early as 1868 and perhaps earlier. He lived on a homestead in Pope county, and held services in several places, traveling long distances to meet his appointments. The Methodists of the county organized



in 1870 and A. H. Reed was the first pastor. He then lived on a homestead in South Reynolds or Little Sauk and was also county surveyor for a time. He was followed by Rev. W. A. Putnam and afterward by A. A. Sutton, who held services not only in Long Prairie, but at different points up the river to the west. Rev. W. P. Fenlason came in 1875 and did pioneer religious work for two or three years, sometimes rustling his living at outside work. He was on the log drive one spring on Partridge river and having been trained to the work as a boy in Maine, he surprised the lumber jacks when they put him in a perilous place to break a jam. When the boys found out he was no tenderfoot preacher, they made up a purse for him and sent him home.

"The United Brethren denomination was among the later of the pioneer churches, there being regular appointments in Hartford and in Grey Eagle in an early day. It may be said that this organization began in 1870, when the Sarff Brothers settled in Hartford and began to hold regular religious services before they had their houses built, holding meetings under the trees. They organized a class of a denomination known as Christian Union, an off-shoot of the Methodist Episcopal church, which is now extinct. When the eloquent Elder Tibbetts, of the United Brethren denomination, came up from Southern Minnesota he secured the merging of this class into one of the church he represented and the United Brethren denomination now has organized societies at Browerville, Hewitt, Grey Eagle, Clotho and Moran. In the early days Revs. Jacob and William Sarff preached regularly and worked on their farms at the same time. Among the pioneers of the United Brethren society were E. J. Reed, I. N. English, Reverend Cook and Reverend Hankins.

#### FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZED.

"Not connected with any denomination, but of equal importance, D. H. Mason deserves a place in the history of pioneer religious work. He was at the head of the organized Sunday school work. He was indefatigable in his work of organizing Sunday schools in all northern Minnesota, his first work in Todd county being done in the early seventies. Through his efforts, many Sunday schools of all denominations owe their inception. He continued his chosen work, always on the frontier, until a few years ago when his health gave way and he became insane. It is a curious fact that Rev. A. A. Sutton, who was, perhaps, Mr. Mason's most intimate friend at one time, also became insane about the year 1876.

"The Lutherans probably have more organized churches in the county than any other denomination and very likely the largest membership. The writer cannot say when this society first made its appearance in the county, but perhaps it had its beginning in the Scandinavian settlements in Little Sauk, Gordon and Kandota. The German Lutherans had a church organization east of the village in 1875, when the genial Rev. W. F. Hitzmann first commenced his work. He remained in charge of the local church for about thirty-two years, until his health gave way and he removed to the southern part of the state in 1906. Rev. O. P. Ojen was also a pioneer Lutheran, having charge of the work in the town of Gordon and elsewhere in the Scandinavian settlements.

#### RURAL CHURCHES.

"The Free Methodist society has become a prominent factor as a religious body in some parts of the county. Although it is not among the pioneer churches, it is doing work very similar to that of the first religious bodies. Its church buildings are all in the country districts and it is a part of the tenets of the church to avoid the influences of wealthy surroundings and worldly vanities. Among the evangelical churches the Free Methodists seem to be the most potent in keeping up religious interest in the sparsely settled country districts.

"Among the later post-pioneer churches might be mentioned what are known popularly as the German Methodists. They have flourishing churches at several points in Germania, Bertha and Iona. Like the Free Methodist this society is almost wholly in the country districts.

"The Christian church, or Disciples, have organized societies in Browerville and at Batavia, with preaching services about once each month, although in past years they have had resident pastors. They have church buildings at both points and have a zealous membership, which keeps up an interest in the Sunday school and church work."

#### LONG PRAIRIE METHODISM.

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal church of Long Prairie, Todd county, was organized in the latter weeks of 1871, at a quarterly conference for the Long Prairie mission, Sauk Center district, when Peter Losey, Henry Reid, Horace Pierce, Alvah Sutton and Jacob Crouse, "trustees of the parsonage on said mission" were elected. This meeting was held at the Round Prairie

school house and David Brooks was minister, with the presiding elder as chairman. On June 9, 1883, at a quarterly conference held at the Reynolds church, trustees were elected for the "First Methodist Episcopal church of Long Prairie" and for the "Methodist Episcopal church at Maple Hill."

But another record shows that prior to this a church had been organized, for at the Minnesota conference held on March 20, 1876, it is found that "Albert Allee, J. S. McKay, Jeremiah Adams, Alonzo B. Curtis, and Thomas H. Shinnebarger were elected to take charge of the estate and property of the Methodist Episcopal church at Long Prairie under the corporate name of the St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal church of Long Prairie. (Signed) E. R. Lathrop, presiding elder, and W. P. Fenlason (pastor), secretary."

On Monday, May 23, 1876, lot 9 in block 2, original town site was deeded to these trustees. On June 18, 1883, lot 10 in block 2, was deeded to the "board of trustees on condition that they agree to build a church during the summer and fall and to hold the same as a church lot."

The following have served as pastors at Long Prairie in this church: Revs. Alva Sutton, W. P. Fenlason, F. L. Post, J. S. Bouck, O. Barnett, J. S. Bean, H. C. Klingel, E. G. P. Sanderson, Doctor Williams, I. H. Snell, J. D. Deets, B. F. Kephart, E. H. Nicholson, George E. Tindall, C. W. Stark, Charles R. Oaten, E. R. Stevenson, H. A. Cleveland, F. J. Bryan, M. E. Hedding. The present pastor is Blaine Lambert.

The membership of the church in September, 1915, was about one hundred. The estimated value of church property was eight thousand dollars. The present building was remodeled from the former church and was doubled in its size in 1905, making a very neat bungalow style building, with leaded-glass windows and all finely furnished within.

It should be added concerning the interesting history of this church that its first building was the parsonage. The early preacher resided at Long Prairie and preached at five points, three of which were Bear Head, Long Prairie and Whiteville, the latter so called from the pioneer family name White, and the church was six miles to the west of Long Prairie. Rev. O. Burnett probably erected the church at Long Prairie in 1883 as well as one at Whiteville. The Methodist church at Reynolds was also a pioneer institution.

#### POLISH PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH AT BROWERVILLE.

The following account of St. Joseph's parish is based on inquiries from old parishioners and church documents written by Rev. J. Guzdek, while

the history of the development of the parish is written by Sister Avellina Mrozla.

Soon after 1872 the Poles began to arrive from Europe, especially Silesia, and colonize the forest regions about the then little settlement of Long Prairie, at present the county seat of Todd county.

It is probable the deceased Joseph Wieszalla was the first settler in the locality of Long Prairie. The life of the pioneers was very similar to that of the primitive. The immigrants brought with them only the most necessary household articles and thus were forced to seek their livelihood amid the then vast and wild forest of America.

#### EARLY IMMIGRANTS.

Between the years 1874 and 1880 the number of Polish immigrants increased when the following families arrived: Jon, Marcinczyk, Gahs, Miodek, Dudek, Baron, Feist, Gurzenda, Hosalla, Lamuzga, Bartylla, Berczyk, Wrobel, Buhl, Stach, Ulik, Lyson, Cygan, Mocko, Poplinski, Mundry, Kulig and Gonsior.

Soon after came: Kurtz, Goligowski, Jambor, Kubica, Hennek, Swoda, Golla, Pietron, Kotula, Konieczko, Kaluza, Jakubik, Sowa, Jaglo, Gerstenberger, Adamiec, Worzecha, Lisowski, Janikula, Janiecki, Boruszewski, Jarosz, Rogalski, Kolodziej, Drong, Knosalla, Maj Marzke, Murgas, Gaffka, Giza, Wodarz, Nanik, Ostrowski, Przybytta, Smialek, Twardowski, Wierzgata, Gwozdz and others who are still living here today. Many of these have died and are survived by their children.

The Polish people are strongly attached to the faith of their forefathers; hence on finding themselves to be quite a community deprived of religious consolations they, with the aid of some German Catholic settlers, resolved to build a small church so as to have a place of worship.

At that time the diocese of St. Cloud was only vicar apostolic of northern Minnesota under the spiritual guidance of Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch, O. S. B., who died in 1895. To him a Polish-German delegation had recourse petitioning for advice and permission regarding the erection of the church.

#### FIRST CHURCH ORGANIZED.

The bishop gave his consent, promising to send a priest as soon as they completed the church. A meeting was called on March 5, 1883, in





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH (OLD), BROWERVILLE



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH New C. BROWERVILLE.





Whitesel's school house, in Hardford township, for the purpose of planning the erection of the building and electing a board of officers.

They elected John Marcinczyk, John Bartylla, Peter Lamuzga, Thomas Feist, Ignatius Baron, John Stevens, with Joseph Cygan and John Becker as advisors. The building committee consisted of Joseph Luke, John Stevens, Peter Hermes, Thomas Feist, John Bartylla, Ignatius Baron, Peter Lamuzga, and John Becker.

Furthermore they decided to form a church society which was to be the foundation of the newly organized parish. This society was to provide lumber and other building materials of which each member was to bring three loads. These resolutions were signed by the following: John Becker, Peter Lamuzga, Joseph Jon, Ignatius Baron, Thomas Feist, John Stevens, Frank Lamuzga, John Schneider, Mathias Hager, Joseph Gonsior, Francis Bartylla, John Bartylla, Martin Usobel, Thomas Mocko, Joseph Poplinski, Albert Lyson, Joseph Cygan, Joseph Luke, Francis Miodek, and Peter Fischer.

#### DONATIONS FOR THE CHURCH.

Apart from the German members, who numbered about thirty, among whom were Joseph Luke, Matthias Hager, Joseph Hermes, Peter Hermes, J. C. Borgert, William Disselbrett, Henry Dreimann, Barney Brever, Peter Fischer, John Schneider, J. B. Benning, Thomas Laidlaw, Joseph Woell, Henry Spieker, Lorence Shower, the Poles gave their first offerings for the building of the church and may justly be reckoned the founders of the parish of St. Joseph.

They donated as follows: John Marcinczyk, \$30; Thomas Feist, \$31; Martin Wrobel \$20; Rochus Czech, \$30; Francis Miodek, \$20; Francis Buhl, \$15; Stanley Kulig, \$30; Frederic Poplinski, \$20; Joseph Cygan, \$30; Thomas Mundry, \$10; Joseph Gonsior, \$30; Albert Lyson, \$25; Peter Lamuzga, \$25; Joseph Jon, \$30; Thomas Mocko, \$30; Norbert Mocko, \$30; Francis Bartylla, \$30; Stanely Stach, \$20; Rochus Kolodziej, \$10; John Bartylla, \$30; John Cygan, \$10; Ignatius Baron, \$30; Joseph Poplinski, \$20; John Warzecha, \$10; Louis Pollak, \$10; Michael Ulik, \$10.

This netted \$600. The Germans offered an equal sum, and together with about \$100 donated by individuals of other denominations made a total of \$1,304.35. D. R. Jackson made the plan at the cost of \$22.50. The building thus erected was a common frame building without a steeple, costing about \$1,500.

The people rejoiced on seeing the structure completed. Taking into consideration the financial circumstances of those days the offerings made for God's honor were very liberal.

#### DEDICATION.

The church, though not then completed, was dedicated and given under the patronage of St. Joseph, patron saint of Joseph Cygan, then a trustee. The following year, March 5, 1884, the parishioners again held a meeting in the Whitesel's school house at which they elected a standing church committee in the persons of Joseph Cygan, John Marcinczyk, John F. Becker and Joseph Luke. Further it was resolved that no pew rent be paid but all pay equally; those not having money were to give notes in order to pay the remaining church debt. The meeting was attended by eighteen Poles and four Germans, while the entire parish consisted of fifty-seven families, thirty Polish and twenty-seven German families.

#### PASTORS OF ST. JOSEPH'S.

Because of the lack of Polish clergy Bishop Siedenbush appointed Rev. Ignatius Tomazin, a Slavonian, who began to conduct regular services in 1884; however, being a Slavonian, he could not satisfy the demands of the Polish speaking people, consequently the bishop removed him. During the year 1885 the parish was only a mission, attended monthly by Rev. Urban Fischer, O. S. B., of Collegeville.

In 1886 Rev. Clement Gruenholtz, a Pole, was made permanent pastor. His pastorate was of short duration and in 1887 the parish again became a mission, alternately attended by Rev. John Sroka, Rev. C. A. Gunkel, Rev. John Studnicki, Rev. P. Chowaniec, Rev. Vincent Schiffers, O. S. B., Rev. Gregory Steil, O. S. B., when in 1887 Rev. J. Studnicki became pastor and remained until his death in May, 1887.

#### REV. METHODIUS SLATINSKI.

The vacancy was filled by the valiant Rev. Methodius Slatinski, who though a Bohemian, knew enough Polish to administer to the people. His pastorate was of most notable importance to the history of the church of St. Joseph at Bowerville. It was due to his energy that the first Polish paro-

chial school was built in the St. Cloud diocese. He fully understood the harmful influence of the American religious indifference on the Catholic young generation. In his great undertaking he was morally supported by the noble Rt. Rev. Otto Zardetti, who was consecrated and nominated bishop of the newly organized diocese of St. Cloud.

It was during Rev. M. Slatinski's administration that the parish began to flourish. The church was equipped with richer vestments, chalices, statuary, etc. John Marcinczyk was the donor of a chalice costing thirty-five dollars and forty-five cents. A. Lukas, Martin Wrobel, Frank Buhl and John Marcinczyk donated a fifty-dollar canopy.

#### SCHOOL OF HOLY ANGELS.

The school question was first seriously considered in the year 1890. Two committees were appointed; one committee, consisting of Henry Becker, William Disselbrett, James Bake, John Lucas, John Marcinczyk and Martin Wrobel, was enjoined with the duty of collecting due bills and defraying the church debt; the other committee, consisting of Peter Hermes, Thomas Feist, Francis Miodek and Frederic Poplinski, was to raise a fund for the purpose of erecting a school.

Rev. M. Slatinski encouraged his parishioners to take interest in the noble work. The erection of the school building would have been an easy task had it not been for certain individuals whose aim in life is always to play the cockle in a field of grain. The parish was composed mostly of European immigrants, used to a different school and church supporting system, where the government has under its protection and care the financial church and school affairs.

#### NEW CUSTOMS LEARNED IN AMERICA.

The people seemed not aware of the fact that the "fides" and school tithes formed a part of the taxes they paid in the old country. Here in America the direct contribution towards the support of church and school was new, a blow on purses they thought. The more learned and honest men admitted the theory, as it was explained, namely, that the financial affairs of the church had nothing in common with the government, and, therefore, the church must, of necessity, support itself.

These unfavorable circumstances served the ignorant and malicious kickers as good pretext for sowing strife and discord, and as a natural result

great agitation was stirred up the moment Rev. M. Slatinski began to build. Work on the building was rushed and the school completed in 1891. The money raised by voluntary contributions was insufficient and the pastor was forced to demand of his parishioners to sign notes against their will. This act created great dissatisfaction, which resulted in the division of the parish into two parties.

#### TROUBLOUS TIMES.

Among the parishioners those of good understanding saw there was no other way but to pay cash or sign a note in order not to undermine the parish's solid foundation. Others, being dissatisfied and overcome by inimical hatred for all authority, turned away from the church. The uproar became so manifest that Rt. Rev. Bishop Zardetti felt himself in conscience bound to close both institutions—the church and the school. Such punishment was unendurable for all who deemed themselves possessed of sound character. They, therefore, humbly submitted and sent, on March 7, 1894, a petition to the bishop signed by ninety-two, together with a promised guarantee for the fund those families intended to raise. The petition was granted them and the parish restored to its original good feeling, having the guaranteed fund necessary for its maintenance.

#### DIVISION OF THE CONGREGATION.

The second episode during Rev. M. Slatinski's administration was the separation of the Catholic people into two parishes. Dissensions brought about by the building began again to ferment to such a degree as to cause great disorder in the parish; a non-paying party existed whose debt remained unpaid year after year.

The cost of the school building was four thousand dollars; besides that there was a debt on the church of about one thousand dollars. The small parish could not flourish under such heavy debt, reigning discord and indifference in paying dues. Moreover, a natural antagonism sprang into existence between the Poles and the Germans; one party would upbraid the other for existing disorders. The controversy ended when the nationalities were separated into two distinct parishes.

About this time Rt. Rev. Bishop Zardetti was promoted to the dignity of archbishop and transferred to Bukarest, Roumania, in 1894. Rt. Rev. Bishop Marty, O. S. B., bishop of Sioux Falls, filled the vacancy the same

year. On April 7, 1895, he came to Browerville to adjust the affair. By this time the number of Polish families outnumbered the German.

The pastor called a meeting, at which the bishop presided. The main point for consideration was the debt which was to decide about the further and sounder foundation of the parish. Both sides favored separation. Here arose the question as to who would undertake the burden of the debt. Both sides hesitated until Rev. M. Slatinski, by words of encouragement, persuaded the Poles to take it upon themselves. The following agreement was drawn up:

“Browerville, Minnesota, April 21, 1895.

“At a meeting of the Polish Catholics with those speaking other languages the following points were unanimously agreed upon:

“I. The Polish Catholics will keep the church property as it now stands and will pay the debts contracted on the same.

“II. The one thousand, five hundred dollars principal and interest which are due now and three hundred dollars salary of the Benedictine Sisters will be paid on November 1, 1895, and whatever money will be needed over and above the pew rent and notes due by the members of the congregation which will be paid thru, shall be furnished by the fifteen men, each of whom has become responsible for one hundred dollars. The names are: Stephen Berczyk, Francis Bieniek, Rochus Czech, Thomas Feist, Paul Gonsior, Błasius Kiszewski, Rochus Kotodziej, Stanislaus Kulig, Charles Lamuzga, Peter Lamuzga, John Lukas, Thomas Lisowski, Thomas Mocko, John Marcinczyk, Martin Wrobel.

“III. The Catholics hitherto members of St. Joseph's congregation, but not Polish, will pay to the treasurer the pew rent and school money due up to the present time.

“IV. The same will form a congregation by themselves and as soon as possible go to work to build a church of their own. They will also have their own school. For ten years they will have the use of one school room in the school house of the Holy Angels, but will buy their own furniture and pay their teacher.

“V. For one year they will have the use of the chapel in the school building.

“VI. Should they be in need of these rooms longer than the time mentioned they will pay a rent to be determined by the Polish congregation with the approval of the bishop.”

## SECOND AGREEMENT.

Notwithstanding the foregoing agreement the German Catholics wished to be released from all claim on the St. Joseph's parish, provided they would be freed from their standing dues, and use the money for their own parish; in consideration of which there was a general understanding on July 7, 1895. The agreement then read as follows:

"Browerville, Minnesota, July 7, 1895.

"At a meeting of the Polish Catholics of Browerville, Minnesota, the following proposition was placed before the people to act upon:

"Let the Germans separate themselves completely from St. Joseph's church by withdrawing from the Holy Angels school building, which they are allowed to use for either church or school purposes for a period mentioned in the contract between the Rt. Rev. Bishop and the two congregations, leaving the premises from this date. The St. Joseph's congregation leaves it to the honor and conscience of individual members of the new congregation to pay what they owe to St. Joseph's church at the latest by November 1, 1895. Moreover, let the Polish congregation not have any recourse to any other means of collecting or enforcing their claim against the members of the congregation except that of honor and conscience."

"The above proposition was accepted by the Polish congregation as the most expedient under the circumstances and the result is hereby submitted to the German congregation, to take note of and act upon.—M. C. Slatinski, pastor; Charles Lamuzga, Martin Wrobel, Bernard Brever, J. C. Borgert.

"On motion of the German party it was agreed to put November 1, 1895, as limit to settlements from the German side after which date all notes and other book accounts held by the St. Joseph congregation against the new congregation shall be, if yet unsettled, declared as cancelled and destroyed.—Charles Lamuzga, Martin Wrobel, Bernard Brever, J. C. Borgert."

## POLISH MEMBERS ASSUME DEBT.

In this way the parish of St. Joseph devolved with all property on the Polish side, and the Poles obligated themselves to pay all standing debts of the German side. The Germans then formed a congregation of their own.

The cemetery grounds were donated by Joseph Buhl, a Pole; conse-

quently they also became the Polish parish's property; however, the bishop recommended that the Germans be allowed to bury their dead in the same cemetery until they had provided for one.

From that date the former parish was divided into an entirely Polish congregation under the same title of St. Joseph, and the newly organized German congregation of St. Peter. Regarding the act of separation it will be in place to publish the letter of the bishop to Rev. M. Slatinski, dated on July 12, 1895:

"St. Cloud, Minnesota, July 12, 1895.

"Rev. Dear Sir: After hearing Mr. Heid, I understand that it is the free proposal of St. Joseph's congregation to dismiss the German Catholics of the new congregation without demanding payment of the indebtedness, on condition that they leave the school house and give up all claim to the old property. The Germans are willing to accept this offer. The settlement is not such as I would have desired, but if it will promote brotherly feeling between the Catholics of Browerville I will approve of it; and hope that God's honor and the honor of the Catholic people will then be practised.

"With best wishes, your humble servant,

"† M. MARTY, O. S. B.

"Rev. C. M. Slatinski, Browerville."

Beginning with August, 1895, the newly organized German congregation, in charge of Rev. J. B. Brender, then pastor of Long Prairie, rented the second story of Kahlert's store, where services were held until the year 1896, when they built a church.

The two facts achieved by Rev. M. Slatinski will perpetuate his name as the founder of the well-established parish of St. Joseph at Browerville.

The school building is equipped with three class rooms and a number of apartments, living rooms for the Sisters. The school called Holy Angels is a two-story, brick-veneered building, adding grace and completeness to the church premises.

#### INSTRUCTORS IN THE SCHOOL.

The Polish Sisters of St. Benedict have charge of the instructions. The present staff consists of: Sister Armella, superior and music teacher; Sister Avellina, teacher of grammar grades and organist; Sister Jadwiga, teacher of intermediate grades; Sister Augusta, primary teacher; Sister Simplicia,

cook; Sister Renata, general housekeeper. For the first school semester the following Sisters were employed: Sisters Seraphica, Casimir, Adela and Sebastian, respectively, succeeded by Sisters Kastka, Candida, Isabella, Constantia, Mildred, Victoria, Caroline, Zitta, Opportuna, Canisia, Rufina, Adalberta, Edith, Hedwig, Oswalda, Emma, Albina and Victorine.

With the end of 1895 Rev. M. Slatinski left the diocese and went to Pennsylvania, where he has been ever since, pastor of St. Michael's parish at Homestead. The vacancy at Browerville was filled by the newly ordained Rev. Simon Dabrowski, who shortly after, in May, 1896, exchanged parishes with Rev. J. A. Dudek, pastor of Perham, Minnesota.

#### THE PARISH HOUSE.

A few months after Rev. J. A. Dudek became pastor of St. Joseph's parish he was commissioned to care also for the German parish. Previous to his coming to Browerville the foundation for the St. Peter's church had been laid and the superstructure was completed through the supervision of Rev. J. A. Dudek.

Rev. J. A. Dudek was born at Popielowo, Upper Silesia, Poland's portion taken by Germany. Having almost completed his classical course he left his native country and came to America, a youth of sixteen. He entered St. Francis Seminary, Wisconsin, where, after having completed the courses of philosophy and theology, he was ordained for the St. Cloud diocese, and in 1894 was appointed pastor of Perham and Browerville, successively. In 1902 he built a fine parsonage, one among the finest residences of Browerville, at the cost of four thousand dollars. In 1906 he was transferred to Gilman, Minnesota, and his place taken by Rev. J. S. Guzdek, pastor of Opole, Minnesota, who is, up to the present time, administering the government of the parish.

#### REV. JOHN ST. GUZDEK.

The following history of the progress and development of St. Joseph's parish is furnished by Sister Avellina Mrozla:

Rev. John St. Guzdek was born on November 4, 1876, at Chocznia, Galicia, Poland's part taken by Austria. He was the son of Albert Guzdek and Mary Sordyl, proprietors of the real estate called "Gurdkowka." He attended the elementary parochial school of the parish at the early age of six. When eleven years old he passed examinations, and the following year he took up



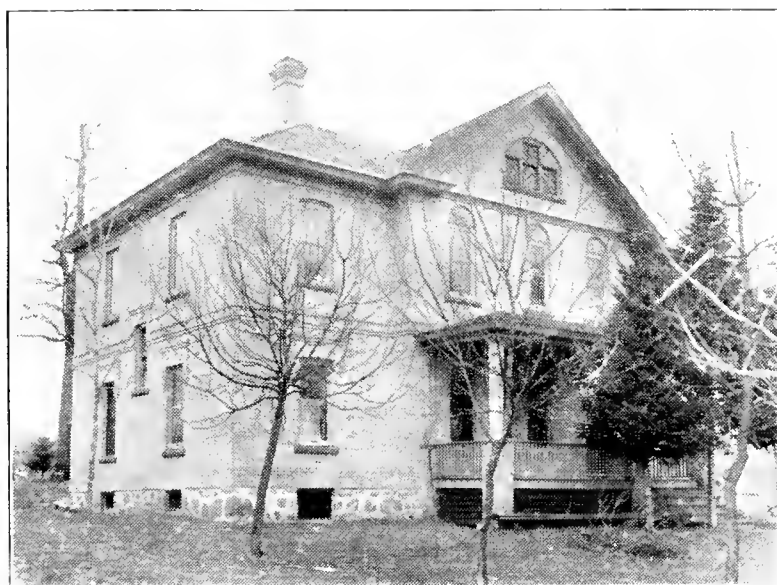




REV. JOHN ST. GUZIK



HOLY ANGELS SCHOOL BROWERVILLE



PRIEST'S RESIDENCE, BROWERVILLE



the classical course at Wladowice, county seat, adjoining "Gurdkowka." Having completed the classical course it was his intention to study medicine, but having felt himself called to the priesthood he went to Cracow to finish philosophy. Next he served in the Austrian army; a year later, in 1897, he went to Italy with the intention of taking the theological course. While there he changed his mind and came to America, landing in New York on July 28, 1898. His half-brother informed him of the lack of Polish clergy in the diocese of St. Cloud.

He was admitted into the diocese and, in 1898, took up the continuation of study of theology at St. John's University, Collegeville, and finished in St. Paul Seminary. Having passed examinations he was elevated to the dignity of priesthood and ordained by Rt. Rev. Bishop J. Trobec, bishop of St. Cloud, on March 25, 1901.

He read his first mass on March 27, at St. Anna, Minnesota, where his half-brother, Rev. S. Dabrowski, was pastor. After Easter of the same year he was appointed pastor of the Polish-German parish of Duelm, and entrusted with the Polish mission at Little Falls, where he completed the work on the St. Adalbert's church, then in progress. In 1902 he was transferred to Opole, Minnesota, where he built a fine parsonage at the cost of four thousand dollars.

#### ERECTION OF THE NEW CHURCH.

On June 27, 1906, he was transferred to Browerville, St. Joseph's parish. One year later Rev. Guzdek began preparations for the erection of a new church to be built in place of the small frame building which no longer could accommodate the increased number of families. The parish then numbered over two hundred families. The following year it came to action, as may be seen from the minutes here quoted:

"Sunday, May 26, 1907.

"Special meeting was called to order in the parochial school building by Rev. J. S. Guzdek, vice-president of the St. Joseph's congregation of Browerville, Minnesota.

"The object of the meeting is to decide whether or not to build a new church building for our parish, the St. Joseph congregation of Browerville, Minnesota.

"Motion made and seconded that Robert Holig act as secretary of the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

"Almost all the members of said congregation were present.

"Motion made by Rev. Guzdek that a vote shall be taken whether or not to build a church. Being seconded.

"The motion being carried unanimously that a new church shall be built. A question by Rev. Guzdek, when shall the new church be started and built?

"After longer discussion it was decided that the starting of the new building, in legal form, shall be commenced immediately after this meeting.

"Motion made and majority in favor, only contrary V. Maj and V. Brenny to the above question.

"Motion made and seconded that the question arises, How much shall the new church cost?

"Motion carried unanimously that the said church building shall cost between the sums of \$25,000 and about \$30,000. This sum shall be only for building without fixtures and painting.

"Plans and specifications of the new church are to be selected by the building committee; and said building committee shall have the absolute right to let the contract or contracts and act in every respect in the building of the new church; furthermore, shall have the full right and power to buy and sell all material, etc., necessary for the said building in behalf of the congregation and for them.

"Motion to the above was made and carried by acclamation.

"The building committee of nine men were named by the congregation, then voted on and carried by acclamation; and that those said nine men vote among themselves for seven men, and the seven men shall compose the legal building committee of said congregation.

"The following nine men were named by the congregation: Rev. J. S. Guzdek, Martin Wrobel, Robert Holig, John Sobota, Vincent Maj, Valentine Brenny, Stephen Berczyk, Simon Kaluza and Peter Wodarz.

"The next question was about personal assessment of each of the members. All were in favor of assessments on each member and of electing assessors for said purpose and those assessors shall assess all members of said congregation into four classes as follow: First class, \$200; second class, \$150; third class, \$125; fourth class, \$100. The assessments are made payable, first half on January 1, 1908, second half on January 1, 1909.

"Assessors being selected as follows: Peter Buhl, Charles Hadash, Martin Hudalla, Theodore John, Frank Jambor, Mike Motzka, John Mor-

cinczyk, Paul Pampuch, Casper Pietron, Joseph Schenk, Jacob Spychata, John Salawa, Paul Waleczka.

"Motion made and carried that the classes of assessment be changed and have been changed to five classes: First class, \$300; second class, \$200; third class, \$150; fourth class, \$125; fifth class, \$100. It shall be allowed to the assessors when necessary to use one-half classes between the highest and lowest amount.

"Members agree to do all hauling of material necessary for the building of the new church and furnish all stone and sand necessary. If a member is not able to haul or furnish the same he is to pay the regular cost of such stone and sand and team work.

"In giving the building contract the committee is bound to buy the brick, cement and lime necessary for said building, the rest to be furnished by the contractor.

"The vote of the nine on the building committee to elect seven members was as follows: Elected, John Sabota, Martin Wrobel, Simon Kaluza, Robert Holig, Peter Wodarz, Stephen Berczyk, Rev. J. S. Guzdek.

"The building committee will now have legal authority to take the building transactions in their charge.

"No other business, therefore the meeting adjourned.

"ROBERT HOLIG, Secretary of the Meeting.

"REV. J. S. GUZDEK,

"Vice-President of St. Joseph's Church, of Browerville, Minnesota."

#### BEAUTIFUL DESIGN.

The church plan was made in the modern renaissance style, dimensions one hundred and fifty-one by seventy feet, by Boehme & Cordella, of Minneapolis. The interior of the church presents a beautiful architectural decoration, with a golden light piercing through the amber-stained windows. Two rows of pillars with their capitals give it a splendid appearance. The structure is made of grayish-white Lime Belt brick. In planning the sketch Rev. J. S. Guzdek was governed by the thought that it was time to put an end to the primitive style of building box churches. Rev. J. Guzdek, in working out his ideas, found a great co-operative factor in his countryman, Victor Cordella, architect and artist. They achieved a great work, and justly deserve a prominent place on the pages of Todd county's history.

## A MOVE FOR ECONOMY.

The building committee accepted the plans with great enthusiasm. The majority, fearing the big cost, asked to lessen the dimensions, to which proposition the pastor was much opposed, knowing that such change would spoil the architectural symmetry and proportion. Victor Cordella changed the dimensions as far as it could be done, being most careful not to spoil the symmetry.

In May, 1908, work was begun. Four bids were opened. Hurr & Zierton, a firm of St. Cloud, was the lowest, and to it the contract was given for the building at the cost of \$24,350.

The parish supplied bricks, excavation, stones and sand, the rest belonged to the contractor. The stones and brick cost \$4,100; plan, \$1,086; freight, \$235; steam-heating plant, \$2,842; pews, pulpit and railing, \$2,207; stained windows, \$1,879; stations, \$350; holy water fonts, \$50; bells, \$930; statues for the steeple, \$500; chandelier and carpet, \$550; other minor articles, \$400. In this way the church was erected at the cost of \$40,000, to the surprise of all. It is a puzzle at the present day to all who at sight estimate it at \$70,000.00.

## BLESSING OF THE CORNER STONE.

On July 23, 1908, Rt. Rev. Bishop James Trobec blessed the corner stone, in which ceremony a number of diocesan clergy participated. Rev. A. Gospodar, of Swan River, preached an appropriate Polish sermon for the occasion and Rt. Rev. Bishop delivered an English sermon.

The church was completed for Easter in 1909. By strange coincidence the first services in the new church were held on the same date as the last services a year before in the old church.

The old church was razed and during the time the new one was being built services were held in the school chapel.

Everybody was most liberal toward the church; during the same year Rev. J. Guzdek collected thirty-seven thousand dollars. Within a year the church was fully equipped, having a debt of twelve thousand dollars, which since then has been brought down to three thousand, eight hundred dollars. Rev. J. Guzdek's plan is to pay off all debt this year and by next fall have the church consecrated.



## DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH.

On April 21, 1909, on Wednesday following Whitsunday, the parish celebrated the best feast of its history—the silver jubilee of its existence. The new church was blessed the same day. Rt. Rev. Bishop Trobec, of St. Cloud, and at the time the only Polish bishop; Paul Rhode, auxiliary bishop, of Chicago; Rev. St. Nawrocki, of Chicago; Rev. B. Goral, of Milwaukee, and a number of other diocesan clergy were present at the double solemnity.

On account of Rt. Rev. Bishop Trobec leaving on that afternoon for Europe to go to Rome “ad limina” the parish tendered him a hearty farewell. After his departure, Rt. Rev. Bishop Rhode proceeded to bless the four new bells, which he named Joseph, John, Mary and Paul, respectively. It was a day of general rejoicing. Pleasing memories, no doubt, will abide for years with all who participated in the celebration.

Shortly after the church was blessed Rev. J. Guzdek made a trip to Europe for an extended vacation, which he deserved for his arduous labor. While there he visited his native country and practically all of Europe, and also settled his military affairs with the Emperor Francis Joseph, of Austria, who freed him from further military obligations which he was under, giving him the title, “reserved military chaplain,” in the rank of captain.

## CONTINUATION OF PASTORAL WORK.

On his return from Europe Rev. Guzdek resumed work on improvement as follows: Made basement of the church into a large hall equipped with stage; inclosed premises with original fence and cemetery with iron fence; laid cement platform before the church and cement sidewalks; put waterworks and electric lights in the three parish buildings; built new stair into the school; renovated the altars; donated to the church a large oil painting of St. Ann, masterpiece of his genius, valued at five hundred dollars; built a grotto and beautified the premises to such an extent as to make them the main feature of the town of Browerville, estimated in value at seventy-five thousand dollars.

He caused societies to organize. The Rosary Society has three hundred members, with post-mortem rights by which the society pays the funeral expenses. At present Mrs. St. Berczyk is president of the society. The Rosary Society of young ladies has one hundred and fifty members, with Mary Bartylla, president; Anna Cygan, vice-president; Gertrude Berczyk,

treasurer, and Julia Gerstenberger, secretary. St. Aloysius Young Men's Society has eighty members, of whom Rev. J. Guzdek is president; Peter Arbeiter, treasurer, and John Hudalla, secretary. The Arch-confraternity of the Sacred Heart has a membership of three hundred with Rev. J. Guzdek as president; Alex Wodarz, secretary, and Mrs. Frank Votzka, treasurer. St. Joseph's Society, the Polish Union, Group of America, has Gregory Gertenberger, president; Joseph Schenk, secretary, and Casper Gmyrek, treasurer. Third Order of St. Francis Society, a local committee of the Polish National Council of America, has Rev. J. Guzdek, president; Simon Kaluza, secretary; Martin Wrobel, treasurer; with Alex Wodarz, Michael Czoch, John Sobota, Peter Wodarz as advisors.

The present board of directors of the St. Joseph's parish consists of Rt. Rev. Joseph Bush, president; Rt. Rev. Edward Nagl, vicar-general; Rev. J. Guzdek, vice-president; Vincent Hudalla, treasurer, and Norbert Bartylla, secretary.

#### TRUSTEES OF THE CONGREGATION.

The office of trustees, from the founding of the parish, was performed by the following members: Joseph Cygan, John Marcinczyk, John Becker and Joseph Luke. These constituted only a church committee because the real trustees, as members of the board of directors, acted as such only after the year 1895, when the parish was incorporated according to the regulations of the plenary council of Baltimore and the state of Minnesota. From that time on the office of proper trustees was held by Martin Wrobel and Charles Lamuzga until 1899; Frank Lukas, Peter Wodarz, Joseph Schenk, Simon Bartylla, Theodore Jon, Peter Drong, Frank Goligowski, Alex Wodarz and Francis Kubica until 1906; Frank Buhl and Francis Berczyk, 1906 to 1909; Robert Holig and Michael Czock, 1909 to 1912; Robert Bartylla and Vincent Hudalla at the present time.

#### GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Two-thirds of the citizens of Browerville are Polish and German Catholics and one-third Americans. The latter belong to either the United Brethren or the Christian church.

In 1913 the Slavonians from the surrounding country built a Greek Catholic church east of town on a little hill near the Long Prairie river. A

Greek Catholic clergyman of Minneapolis holds yearly services for them. They number about twenty families.

The old folks adhere to the Polish church, for in it their children were brought up. Members belonging to the Polish parish are all Silesians, with the exception of a few Bohemian and Slavonian families.

A real Bohemian settlement is in the neighborhood of Browerville, but religiously is unorganized.

#### CHARACTER OF POLISH NATION.

The Poles are strongly attached to religion, as can be inferred from the great sacrifices they make for church and religious purposes.

#### POLES AS AMERICAN CITIZENS.

The Polish nation, in spite of the great tragedies which in its history it has gone through, and the sufferings caused by the present European War, shows a steel character of perseverance. United by Kasciuszko and Pulaski, great in American history, they form a class of faithful citizens of America. Being accustomed to work, and to bear misery, poverty, suffering and persecutions in German, Austrian and Russian servitude, they became an important element in America. Expression can be given to the fact that any hard labor, considered by other nationalities as too dangerous or too menial, will be done by Poles, for they well understand that it is not the work but the character that degrades a man. As emigrants from Polish soil they took a liking to the farms in America. These they cultivated most carefully, improving them from year to year. In attaching themselves to American soil they have also become its most devoted citizens, and in time of need no doubt will stand as its most zealous defenders.

The members of St. Joseph's congregation are mostly farmers, with a small number who are engaged in commerce and town industry.

#### PRESENT MEMBERSHIP.

The parish numbers two hundred and fifty-six families, about one thousand four hundred and fifty souls and one hundred and fifty school children. It prides itself in possessing a good choir of twenty-eight members under the

direction of Sister Avellina, organist; a dramatic club, and stringed orchestra under the direction of Sister Armella, music teacher.

The yearly income for the maintenance of the parish is nearly four thousand dollars, pew and rent donations. There is a monthly collection for the purpose of adorning the church and altars.

Further calculations are that the school building will undergo a remodeling and a residence be built for the Sisters as soon as the parish is freed of debt.

## CHAPTER VII.

### TODD COUNTY NEWSPAPERS.

The *Hewitt Banner* was established in 1904, by Jesse M. and John J. Goar, who conducted the same until January 27, 1906. From then until January 1, 1914, it was run by W. C. Dally, and from then until February, 1914, by J. V. Barstow; from then on till July, 1915, by V. E. Joslin and it is now the property of L. A. Groover, who runs a lively five-column octavo sheet. In its politics is is a Republican paper and is a good news-letter each week.

The *Todd County Argus*, of Long Prairie, Todd county, was established by J. H. and J. E. Sheets in 1872, and it passed into the hands of its present owner on September 21, 1914. A. E. Roese, the present man at the helm, is making a first-class paper, or rather is keeping it to the high standard to which it had been built by the Sheets family who are all thorough newspaper men. Long years has the *Argus* been issued as a welcome caller at the homes of Todd and surrounding counties. It is now a six column paper; subscription rate one dollar and fifty cents per year and it goes to many sections of the Union aside from Todd county. It was formerly a Republican paper. It is printed on an up-to-date power press and is a well-edited, finely-printed newspaper. It has ever sought to build up the county and state of Minnesota by each issue saying true and good things concerning the country. Would there were more such boosters as the *Argus* has been for all these forty-three years.

The *Eagle Bend News*, of Eagle Bend, Minnesota, was established in the fall of 1893, by W. E. Hutchinson, who is still owner and editor. It is a neatly-printed, eight-page newspaper having six columns to the page. Its subscription rate is one dollar a year. It is run on a power press—two-revolution Cottrell—by a gas engine. It circulates mostly in Todd and Otter Tail counties, and is a Republican journal of no uncertain sound. This paper is published in a building owned by Mr. Hutchinson, erected in 1900. It has all the latest equipment and does job work to the satisfaction of all who patronize the establishment.

## OFFICES ALL HAVE GOOD EQUIPMENT.

The *Grey Eagle Gazette* was established on October 17, 1900, by Fred D. Sherman, now the commissioner of immigration at St. Paul. Its other owners have been M. J. Walburn and Will Wilke. Politically, the *Gazette* is Republican. It has a good circulation in Todd county. It is printed from a power press propelled by a gas engine, and in form and size is an eight-page, six-column paper of the quarto form. Grey Eagle is indeed fortunate in having so good a local newspaper within her borders.

The *Long Prairie Leader* was established at Long Prairie on November 14, 1883, by Frank B. Simmons, who came from Little Falls where he had been associated with the newspapers of that city. Simmons sold to Harvey Fisher and Bert Rodman, and they to W. G. Graham and in 1892 he sold to a stock company headed by Rudolph Lee, present editor of the paper. The present form and size of the *Leader* is a six-column quarto, all home print. It is eight, ten or twelve pages as necessity requires from issue to issue. Subscription price is one dollar and fifty cents per year. The office was erected in 1914 exclusively for the publication of the paper and has two floors. Circulation is largely in Todd county. The machinery used in the production of this journal includes a linotype, news press, two-revolution Babcock press for large job work, job presses, power cutter, power stitcher and all other machinery used in up-to-date plants doing job and newspaper work.

The *Browerville Blade* was established at Browerville, Minnesota, May 4, 1905, by Mrs. Del M. Wright, but is now the property of K. H. Balcom. It is an eight page folio, printed on a power press. It circulates in the vicinity of Browerville and has a yearly rate of one dollar. The plant in which it is printed has two jobbing presses, a newspaper press, cutter, perforator, stapler, etc. It is independent in its politics and pays strict attention to the best needs of the community in which it is published, always striving to get the news, the whole news and print it fresh and in decent English language, hence it is a home newspaper and welcome in hundreds of Todd county homes.

## ABLE MEN MANAGE THE LOCAL PAPERS.

The *Staples World* was established in 1890 by John T. Drawz, who was sole owner until October 1, 1914, when the paper passed into the hands of

its present owner, J. W. Featherston. Mr. Drawz is now running a job office at St. Paul, Minnesota. The present owner came from Sisseton, South Dakota, where he had conducted the *Standard* for two years, he being its owner. For one year prior to that he had owned the *Sentinel* at Sauk Rapids. He has been in the newspaper business twenty-eight years, nearly all of this time in Minnesota. He conducts an independent paper but is Republican in his politics. It is an eight-page, six-column paper, all home print. It circulates in Staples, Todd and adjoining counties. It is run from presses propelled by an electric motor.

The *Bertha Headlight* was established in January, 1899, by William Young, who soon after sold to I. J. Courtright, who continued until May 1, 1909, when it was leased to W. H. Hansen, and at that time the name was changed to the *Herald*. In March, 1910, Mr. Hansen purchased the plant.

The *Clarissa Independent* was established on July 27, 1900, by P. S. Dorsey, who continued to conduct the paper until July 22, 1902, when George A. Etzell became the owner. This has been, in a way, one of the most successful newspapers in Todd county. It has always been independent in its politics. It has a well-equipped printing establishment.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

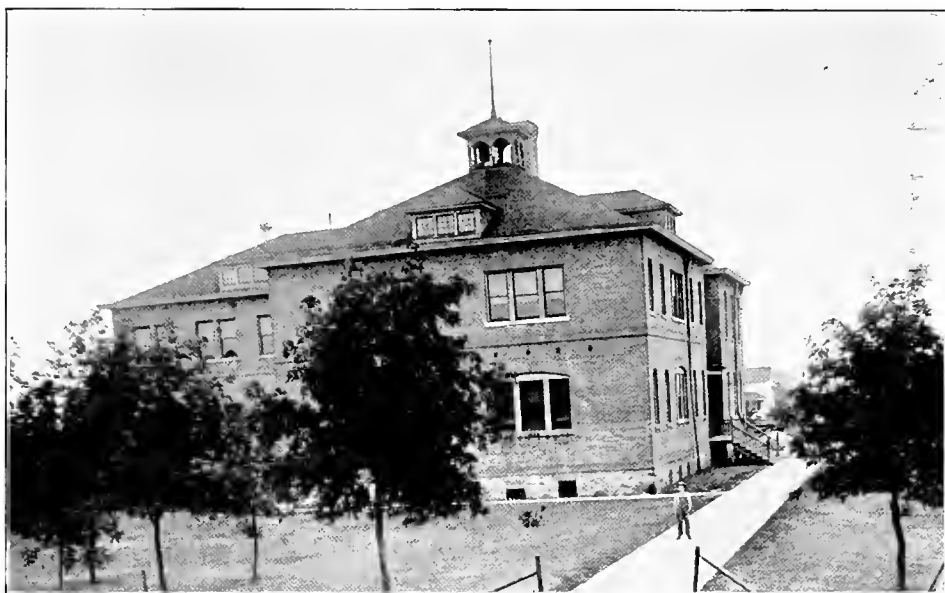
Todd county easily ranks with the foremost counties in the state in the matter of its public schools. Not alone is this true of the common public school system but also of the parochial, or church schools. The Catholic and Lutheran schools at Long Prairie and the Catholic (English and Polish) schools at Browerville are excellent examples of thorough organizations of their class. The co-operation between these institutions and the board in charge of public instruction has ever been for the highest good to the greatest number.

Round Prairie had the first school in Todd county and that was more than forty years ago. In 1911 the records show the county had one hundred and fifty-one schools in operation. The buildings have improved in character as the years have passed, until today no county has more excellent buildings and better cared for grounds, as a rule, than Todd county. Here one finds many of the best types of rural schools to be found in all Minnesota. With improved roads, the country school is fast forging to the front. Five years ago there were sixty schools in Todd county drawing special state aid. More than seven months constitutes a school year here. In 1910 there were five graded schools, three semi-graded schools and three high schools. New and improved buildings are the order of the day in all parts of the county—when one is needed it is immediately erected. The five graded schools already mentioned are located at Bertha, Clarissa, Browerville, Grey Eagle and Burtrum. Gutches Grove, Hewitt and West Union had semi-graded schools. Other county school superintendents have been excellent, but none superior to the present one.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

From the last annual report made by the county school superintendent the following showing was made for this county:





HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, STAPLES



LINCOLN SCHOOL BUILDING, STAPLES



Number of pupils entitled to apportionment-----	5,542
Number not entitled to apportionment -----	963
Total enrollment -----	6,505
Average number of days each pupil attended-----	232
Number of women teachers during the year 1914-15--	247
Number of men teachers during the year 1914-15---	39
Number teachers graduates of Normals-----	49
Number teachers graduates from high schools-----	108
Number districts loaning text-books free -----	152
Number districts selling text-books at cost-----	2
Number of frame school houses erected during the year	1
Number of brick school houses erected during the year	3
Value of brick school houses erected during the year--	\$34,000
Value of all school buildings erected during the year-	\$46,650
Total number books in libraries -----	12,640
Total number of libraries in county -----	124
Number school houses having no trees about them---	9
Number standing in natural groves -----	139
Aggregate indebtedness of all districts -----	\$126,400
Average length of school in months -----	8

## OTHER STATISTICS.

The total receipts for high and graded schools was \$82,844; for rural schools, \$119,845; total, \$202,690. The amount disbursed was just equal to the above amounts.

It cost for the 1914 school year in Todd county, \$13.41 for the education of each pupil sent to the rural schools. It cost \$35.45 per pupil for each attending the city or village schools, which calls forth the question whether the country boy or girl is considered worth only one-third as much to the world as those living in town.

In 1910 there were only fifty-eight schools drawing special state aid, but in 1914-15 the number was increased to one hundred and twelve, by which fact the revenue was increased in Todd county from state to local funds available to the amount of \$6,400.

Five years ago there were only about five and one-half months of school per year here, but now the term is nearly eight months.

The matter of consolidated schools is just beginning to engage the

attention of Todd county school patrons. Already two such schools are under course of erection—one near Grey Eagle and another near Staples.

Industrial work, where the hand is taught as well as the head, is fast coming into fashion in this county. The articles made by both boys and girls show considerable skill.

In brief, it may be stated that Todd county in 1914 had nearly nine thousand scholars and four thousand parents; two hundred and sixty teachers; four hundred and seventy school officers; and these were all to be looked after by the worthy school superintendent, Victor S. Knutson, who in making his three hundred and fifteen visits traveled over four thousand miles.

#### AS VIEWED BY THE PRESENT SUPERINTENDENT.

The following is a page of a report issued by the county superintendent, Mr. Knutson, to the school patrons and officers in Todd county in 1915, and will serve as a permanent record of school matters here.

"We can have well-equipped school buildings, excellent school boards, splendid school spirit in the district, and still have a very poor school. Such could be the results only when we have a poor teacher. Fortunately, the year just passed had very few of those kind of teachers, and there were but a few failures and those were given passports before the year was out. We trust that there will be no failures this coming year. It seems impossible to keep our good teachers in this county for any length of time. The increased salary they are paying in other states and other parts of this state take away some of our very best teachers. We are glad to report, however, that many of our school boards are beginning to realize that fact, and are paying sufficient wages to old teachers that have made good. The girl who works but six, seven or eight months a year and then has to attend summer school and prepare herself for teaching almost all the time during vacation, at from forty to fifty dollars per month has not much left at the end of the year.

"During the past year several of our teachers have taken an active part in the social life of the community. They have taken an active part in the preparation of farmer club programs, in school entertainments and various social activities in the community. We should urge upon our teachers to do even more of this work the coming year.

"We hope that the patrons of our schools will show the teacher the same kind of consideration that they would their own son and daughter were they away from home under the same conditions. There is nothing that will

make teachers do better work than to be happily received and well taken care of in the district. It will cheer them on to do better work. On the other hand we shall insist that the teachers do all in their power to make it pleasant for the people with whom they come in contact, and with whom they must work. We shall urge them to make life easy for the people with whom they board and to make it a pleasure rather than a burden for patrons of our schools to board the teacher. With this splendid co-operation which we are pleading for between the patrons and the teacher we know our teachers will make a success this coming year."

## CHAPTER IX.

### BANKS OF TODD COUNTY.

Todd county is prosperous and hence her banking business is excellent. At an early day there was no use for bankers here, but long since that branch of business has verily become a necessity. The great growth of bank deposits has accompanied the development of the dairying and hog raising business, so that, inasmuch as these industries are just getting fairly established, what the production of wealth in the county is to be in the next few years can be realized. The following is a statement of bank deposits in this county as made public to the bank examiners and comptroller of currency upon date given below.

#### REPORT OF MARCH, 1915.

Bank of Long Prairie -----	\$265,000
First National of Eagle Bend -----	157,000
City National, Staples -----	115,000
First State, Hewitt -----	77,000
First National, Grey Eagle -----	118,000
First State, Burtrum -----	39,300
First National, Staples -----	210,000
First National, Long Prairie -----	150,000
West Union, State Bank -----	55,000
Peoples National, Long Prairie -----	145,000
First State Bank, Eagle Bend -----	125,000
Farmers Bank, Bertha -----	110,000
First National, Bertha -----	150,000
First State, Browerville -----	95,500
First State, Clarissa -----	175,000
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Total deposits -----	\$2,195,600

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF GREY EAGLE.

The First National Bank of Grey Eagle was organized in 1902. It was started as the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Grey Eagle, in 1902, as a private banking firm then composed of R. F. Wilke, C. S. Wilke and Will Wilke. It was incorporated as a national bank in 1907, with a capital of \$10,000. The original officers were: R. F. Wilke, president; Will Wilke, cashier; C. S. Wilke, assistant cashier. A bank building was erected in 1903 and with fixtures was valued at \$12,450.

The First State Bank of Grey Eagle consolidated with the First National Bank in 1908. Its present capital is \$25,000; surplus and profits, \$6,000; the recent statement shows deposits amounting to \$150,000; present resources and liabilities \$205,000. Its officers in August, 1915, were: R. F. Wilke, president; Will Wilke, vice-president; C. S. Wilke, cashier.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF STAPLES.

The First National Bank of Staples was organized in August, 1900, succeeding the private bank of J. D. Marlin, Jr. It had a capital of \$25,000; it still carries the same amount in its capital. Its first officers were: Isaac Hazlett, president; S. L. Frazier, vice-president; E. K. Nichols, cashier; W. J. Kiester, assistant cashier. The officers are now (1915), Isaac Hazlett, president; E. K. Nichols, vice-president; J. R. Nims, cashier; L. M. Blanchett, assistant cashier. A bank building was erected in 1900 costing \$7,500. The bank now has deposits amounting to \$220,000, showing the confidence reposed in the ability and honor of the officers of the concern.

From the published public statement June, 1915, it is learned that the concern carried at that date: Loans and discounts amounting to \$175,546; United States bonds deposited as security \$25,000; total amount of resources, \$282,984.03; liabilities for last named amount. The surplus fund was on that date \$7,000; individual deposits subject to check, \$72,591. The amount in deposits subject to be paid in thirty days or more was \$107,893; deposits subject to thirty or less days notice, \$34,778. The serial number of this national bank is 5568.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LONG PRAIRIE.

The First National Bank of Long Prairie was organized as the Merchants State Bank in 1889 and re-organized as the First National Bank in

1902. It was formed by Albert Rhoda, C. W. Faust, Willard Gutches, Carl Buttke and Clara L. Paine. As a national bank it was organized with a capital of \$25,000, the same as today, except it is now carrying \$6,500 surplus. A general banking business is transacted after modern banking methods.

The first officers were: Albert Rhoda, president; Carl Buttke, vice-president; R. H. Harkens, cashier. A bank building was erected in 1909 costing \$7,600. The present (August, 1915) deposits were \$139,000, while the resources and liabilities of the concern were \$185,000. The last official statement shows \$130,026 of loans and discounts; lawful money reserve in bank, \$8,260; overdrafts unsecured, \$13.82; individual deposits subject to check, \$43,635; certificates of deposit due after thirty days, \$85,035.

Interest is paid on deposits in both time and savings departments. The bank is well provided with safety deposit boxes which rent at from one to two dollars per year. Every department of this bank is equipped to give the best service to customers. The present officers are: C. W. Faust, president; A. L. Linderud, vice-president; Charles Koonze, cashier; A. J. Rhoda, assistant cashier.

#### FARMERS STATE BANK.

The latest bank in this county is the Farmers State Bank, opened August 20, 1915, at Clarissa, with Ole K. Forburge, president; J. A. Johnson, vice-president; J. A. Vetterman, cashier. The capital is \$12,000, with a \$3,000 surplus.

#### FIRST STATE BANK OF BURTRUM.

The First State Bank of Burtrum was organized on March 10, 1908, as the Bank of Burtrum, on a \$5,000 capital, which has been increased to \$10,000. The original officers were: W. E. Lee, president; J. D. Jones, vice-president; E. N. Scott, cashier. The officers at this date are: W. E. Lee, president; Raymond Lee, vice-president; J. H. Mertz, cashier. The building occupied by this bank cost them \$1,800. The recent deposits carried by this concern were \$38,676; while the resources and liabilities were \$57,280. The serial number of this bank is 756 and its June, 1915, statement shows loans and discounts, \$46,348; cash assets, \$4,187; deposits, \$37,880. Amount reserve on hand, \$4,187; amount required by law, \$1,013.



## PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK OF LONG PRAIRIE.

The Peoples National Bank of Long Prairie was established in 1903, and in 1911 was rated as the third in strength in the county. The deposits in 1905 were \$37,000; in 1907, \$65,000; in 1909, \$117,362, showing a marked growth. It also carries a savings department, which has become very popular. The gentlemen who have been at the head of this bank include M. C. Tift, president; C. F. Miller, vice-president; John C. Reichert, cashier. Since then a few changes may have been made in officers. It still stands out as a safe, strong and growing financial institution.

## FIRST STATE BANK OF EAGLE BEND.

The First State Bank of Eagle Bend was established in 1905 by Henry Danger and others. A controlling interest was later sold to Merickel Brothers. The capital stock was then \$20,000. It has materially advanced since its organization and now stands high among the banks of the county.

## BROWERVILLE STATE BANK.

The Browerville State Bank was established in December, 1905. In 1911 the officers were: Thomas Heid, president; John J. Reichert, vice-president; L. S. Sersen, cashier.

## CLARISSA STATE BANK.

The Clarissa State Bank was established on May 12, 1903, and in 1911 made the following report: Loans and discounts, \$58,295; bank building and fixtures, \$6,705; total resources, \$80,935. The capital stock was then \$12,000, with surplus of \$7,000; time deposit certificates, \$33,019. At that date Charles Bradford was president and L. D. Thayer, cashier.

A building was erected for the bank in 1903 at an expense of \$3,000. Its present capital is \$20,000, with a surplus of \$4,000. General banking and farm loan business is transacted. The responsibility of stockholders is \$1,000,000. The deposits in August, 1915, were \$150,000. The present officers are: Charles Bradford, president; L. Langeson, vice-president; L. D. Thayer, cashier; E. N. Erickson, assistant cashier.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BROWERVILLE.

The First National Bank of Browerville was organized in 1890, by H. J. Haskamp, of St. Cloud, and was chartered in 1904 as a national bank. It was originally a private banking house, but in 1904 was reorganized as a national bank by William E. Lee, of Long Prairie, with a capital of \$10,000, which has been increased to \$25,000. The first president was H. J. Haskamp, when still a private bank, and Henry Thien was cashier. The officers today are: William E. Lee, president; Harry Lee, cashier. They now have a surplus of \$5,000. The August, 1915, report gives the amount of deposits as \$215,000. A handsome building was erected in 1900; its cost was \$5,000. In 1900 the deposits were only \$10,000, showing a wonderful increase in business. The 1915 directors are: William E. Lee, George R. Christie, Raymond A. Lee, Robert J. Holig and Harry Lee. The June, 1915, statement shows liabilities and resources to the amount of \$269,203.58. The same report shows loans and discounts of \$174,843.64.

## CITY NATIONAL BANK OF STAPLES.

The City National Bank of Staples was organized first as the Citizens State Bank in 1907, but changed to a national bank. It was organized by E. E. Greeno, John Dawer and others. The first officers were: E. E. Greeno, cashier, and John Dawer, president. The present officers are: W. J. Lewis, president, and E. E. Greeno, cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000, with surplus and undivided profits amounting to \$5,000. The value of the bank building is \$5,000.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BERTHA.

The First National Bank of Bertha was organized in 1898 by J. G. Gebhard, J. C. Miller and F. D. Sleight, being cashier, president and vice-president, respectively. It was first styled the Bank of Bertha. In 1902 that bank was incorporated as the State Bank of Bertha, with B. F. Heins, president; H. Schroeder, vice-president; J. C. Miller, cashier. The first capital was \$10,000, but it was increased to \$25,000, with a present surplus of \$5,000. The present officers are: F. B. Coon, president; Isaac Hazlett and Herman Schroeder, vice-presidents; J. C. Miller, cashier; Edward Thompson, assistant cashier.

The statement issued June 29, 1915, shows liabilities and resources amounting to \$211,762.30; also time certificates payable in thirty days, \$10,500; certificates of regular deposits, \$86,646.76.

#### FARMERS STATE BANK OF BERTHA.

The Farmers State Bank of Bertha was organized at Bertha in June, 1911, by J. G. Gebhard, Fred Leyh, W. W. Will, Robert Olson, E. A. Perkins, M. L. Whitesell, L. H. Bottemiller, George F. Freeman and E. W. Smith. It was started on a capital of \$10,000, but is now increased to \$15,000, with a \$3,000 surplus. The original officers were: W. W. Will, president; J. G. Gebhard, cashier. The present officers are: W. W. Will, president; George F. Freeman, vice-president; L. A. Mason, cashier; E. M. Rosenburg, assistant cashier. This concern owns its bank building, valued at \$3,000. Its last statement shows deposits amounting to \$101,902.09; capital and surplus, \$18,000; earnings, \$4,116.74; loans, \$108,319.34; overdrafts, \$115.81; due from other banks and cash on hand, \$7,823.66.

#### BANK OF LONG PRAIRIE.

The Bank of Long Prairie was organized in 1881. As a state bank it was incorporated in 1890. This was the pioneer banking house in Todd county and is the largest one today. It was established by Andrew J. Smith and William E. Lee as a private bank; incorporated by William E. Lee, Lucas Kells, J. D. Jones and George R. Christie, with a capital stock of \$10,000. As a private bank it was incorporated with a capital of \$25,000. Its present capital is \$50,000, with surplus and undivided profits amounting to \$20,250. The deposits in August, 1915, ran as high as \$250,000. The original officers were: Lucas Kells, president; William E. Lee, cashier. At present the officers are: George R. Christie, president; Raymond A. Lee, vice-president; William E. Lee, cashier; Peter J. Peterdon, assistant cashier.

This bank was opened in "Harkens' old store building," corner of Pine and Osakis streets; then moved to a building built by Walter C. Brower for a printing office. Later it changed to a small veneered brick building on Osakis street, and is now one of the best country bank buildings in Minnesota, equipped with all modern improvements. The building is forty by eighty feet, brownstone and granite front, erected in 1903, at a cost of \$20,000, of brick and stone material.

## CHAPTER X.

### TOWNSHIPS OF TODD COUNTY.

Todd county commenced with three civil townships and has been divided and subdivided, until today it has twenty-eight civil townships. Long Prairie, Hartford and West Union townships were made by act of the board of county commissioners on March 12, 1867.

#### LONG PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

Without entering into the uninteresting process of cutting down the once larger townships to their present limits, it is deemed best to locate the townships as they now stand and probably will ever remain on the map of the county. Long Prairie township is now congressional township 129, range 33; is south of Hartford, west of Bruce, north of Round Prairie and east of Reynolds township. In this the seat of justice for Todd county has always been situated. It is on the south bank of Long Prairie river, and is a station point on the Great Northern railway. Its population in 1910, including the town of the same name, was two thousand two hundred and ninety-five. It is within a very fertile farming section and has one of the largest creameries in the state.

#### HARTFORD TOWNSHIP.

Hartford township is congressional township 130, range 33. It was organized on March 12, 1867; now has a population of one thousand four hundred and forty-nine, inclusive of the village of Browerville, the only village within its borders. It is bounded on the east by Little Elk township, on the south by Long Prairie, on the west by Iona township and on the north by Ward township. Long Prairie river courses through its western sections, as does the Great Northern railway, making a station point at the village of Browerville.

## WEST UNION TOWNSHIP.

West Union is the extreme southwestern township of the county and comprises congressional township 127, range 35. It was organized on March 12, 1867, at the same date of Hartford and Long Prairie. It had a population in 1910 of five hundred and eighty-five, including the village of West Union, the only village in its territory. The main line of the Great Northern railway traverses the township diagonally from southeast to northwest. There are three small lakes in the southern part and one in the eastern portion of this township.

## GORDON TOWNSHIP.

Gordon township was organized by the county commissioners at their session in January, 1869, and was then township 128, range 35, but in January, 1871, to it was added township 129, range 35. Subsequently it assumed its present boundary—township 128, range 35. It was bounded by the county line on the west, on the north by Leslie township, on the east by Little Sank township, and on the south by West Union township. Lake Osakis, the largest lake within the county, is situated in this township, covering much of the northwestern portion of the township. The population in 1910 was six hundred and forty-eight, with eighty-nine in that part of the village of Osakis in Todd county. Its railroad facilities are obtained by the Great Northern system, whose main line runs through the village of Osakis, on the county line.

## BIRCH DALE TOWNSHIP.

Birch Dale township was organized on March 24, 1869, and now comprises congressional township 127, range 33. It is situated on the southern line of Todd county, east of Kandota, south of Round Prairie and west of Grey Eagle township. Its population in 1910 was four hundred and forty-four. Its villages are Wards Springs and Birch Lake. The Northern Pacific railway, Little Falls and Morris division, runs through the southeastern part of this township. There are numerous small lakes within its borders.

## KANDOTA TOWNSHIP.

Kandota is one of the southern line of townships of the county. It is east of West Union, south of Little Sank and west of Birch Dale township.

It is cut up considerably by beautiful clear lakes, and through it runs the Great Northern railway. It has no towns or villages. Its population in 1910 was three hundred and thirty-three. It dates its organization as a civil township from April, 1870, and now comprises congressional township 127, range 34.

#### LITTLE SAUK TOWNSHIP.

Little Sauk township was organized by the county board at its session in the spring of 1870. It constitutes congressional township 128, range 34. It is north from Kandota, west from Round Prairie, south from Reynolds and east of Gordon township. Its population in 1910 was six hundred and forty-seven. The village of Little Sauk is within its borders, and there are several handsome lakelets. The Great Northern railway runs through the southeast corner of it, making a station stop at the village of Little Sauk.

#### GREY EAGLE TOWNSHIP.

This is the southeastern township in Todd county and constitutes congressional township 127, range 32. It was organized by the county commissioners at their September 15 meeting, in 1873, and the record says it is to be known as "Gray" Eagle, but for some reason custom saw fit to have it known as "Grey." The Little Falls & Morris branch of the Northern Pacific railroad runs through its northwestern corner, with a village station point known as Grey Eagle, in section 7. This township has a number of lakes. Its population in 1910 was placed at five hundred and sixteen, and the village of the same name at three hundred and seventy-eight. It is bounded on the east and south by the county line, on the west by Birch Dale township, on the north by Burnhamville township.

#### LESLIE TOWNSHIP.

Leslie township is on the west line of the county, the third from the south and the fifth from the north line of Todd county. It now comprises congressional township 129, range 35. Long Prairie river courses through its territory. There are no railway lines here and only one hamlet—Oak Hill. A portion of Lake Osakis extends up into the southeastern portion of the township. It was organized in September, 1876, and at that date included

what is now Burleene township (township 130, range 35). It had a population in 1910 of six hundred and one. It is purely an agricultural section and contains many excellent farms.

#### MORAN TOWNSHIP.

Congressional township 132, range 33, is what is known as Moran civil township. It is south of Staples township, west of Fawn Lake, north of Ward and east from Germania township. It was organized on March 27, 1877, and included at that date congressional townships 132 and 133, range 33. In 1910 it had a population of four hundred and ninety-eight. Long Prairie river runs through the southeastern sections of the territory. There are no villages. As an agricultural section it has but few equals in the county.

#### STOWE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

Stowe Prairie township is in the extreme northwestern part of Todd county and is west of Bartlett township, north of Bertha and has the county line for its north and west boundaries. It is congressional township 133, range 35, and dates its organization from March 27, 1877, when it comprised also township 132, range 35, which is now Bertha township. It had a population in 1910 of six hundred and eleven. In its exact center is the village of Hewitt, a station point on the Great Northern railway. The correction line of government surveys is on its south line.

#### WARD TOWNSHIP.

Ward is congressional township 131, range 33. It was organized with township 34 (now Eagle Valley civil township), but later cut down to its present limits. The date of its formation was in July, 1877. The Long Prairie river runs through this township from north to south. It has no towns or villages, and the Great Northern railway line touches its extreme southwestern corner. In 1910 it contained a population of eight hundred and one. It is a rich, fertile farming section, with prosperity on every hand. To its north is Moran township, to its east Turtle Creek, to its south Hartford and to its west is Eagle Valley township.

## BERTHA TOWNSHIP.

The sub-division of Todd county now known as Bertha township was organized on January 4, 1878, by the board of county commissioners. As then constituted, it contained also township 34, range 132, that which now comprises Germania township. The Great Northern railway runs through the township from north to south along the eastern portion. Its only village is Bertha. It is bounded by the county line at the west, Stowe Prairie at the north, Germania at the east, and Wykeham at the south. In 1910 it had a population of seven hundred and fourteen, besides the village of Bertha, which then had two hundred and ninety-six.

## WYKEHAM TOWNSHIP.

Wykeham township was originally called Eden township and was organized on January 10, 1880, from congressional township 131, range 35. Eagle Bend is its only village. The township is bounded on the west by the county line, on the north by Bertha township, on the east by Eagle Valley and on the south by Burleene. Its population in 1910 was six hundred and sixty-four. The Great Northern railway runs through the northeastern sections, passing through the village of Eagle Bend.

## GERMANIA TOWNSHIP.

Germania township as now constituted is congressional township 132, range 34. It was organized on March 17, 1880. It is the second from the west and the second township from the north in Todd county. At its west is Bertha; at the north Bartlett; at its east, Moran, and at its south is Eagle Valley township. It had a population in 1910 of five hundred and ten. It is without village or railroad lines.

## EAGLE VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

Eagle Valley township now constitutes congressional township 131, range 34. It was organized by the county commissioners on March 17, 1880. It had a population of nine hundred and thirteen in 1910. Its only village is Clarissa in section 27. This village is a station on the Great Northern



railway. The township is bounded on the north by Germania, on the east by Ward, on the south by Iona and on the west by Wykeham township.

#### IONA TOWNSHIP.

Originally Iona township was called Odessa. It was organized on January 6, 1881, and now comprises congressional township 130, range 34. It is south of Eagle Valley, west of Hartford, north of Reynolds and east of Burleene township. Its population in 1910 was placed at eight hundred and ninety-nine. It is without village or railroad facilities.

#### FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Fawn Lake was organized July 28, 1881, and comprises congressional township 132, range 32. Both in the southern and northern parts are found pretty lakes. The Northern Pacific railroad runs through this township en route from Staples to Little Falls, with a small station at Lincoln, a part of which village is within Morrison county. Sections 5, 6 and 7 are touched by the waters of Long Prairie river. In 1910 the census returns show a population of two hundred and ninety-one. It is bounded on the north by Villard township, on the east by Morrison county, on the south by Turtle Creek township and on the west by Moran township.

#### STAPLES TOWNSHIP.

Staples township is on the north line of Todd county, west of Villard township, north of Moran, and west of Bartlett township. The central portion has a chain of pretty lakelets. The only place within its borders for trading is at the city of Staples located on sections 1, 2, 12 and 13. The township in 1910 had a rural population of six hundred and nineteen with two thousand two hundred and fifty-eight in Staples city. It was organized on January 5, 1882, and is an excellent farming section. Its railroads are the main line of the Northern Pacific from Duluth to the coast, and the St. Paul and Little Falls division which forms junction at the city of Staples, which is a modern railway town, having shops and offices, together with the most extensive yards and side-tracks of any place on the entire route.

## VILLARD TOWNSHIP.

Named for a former resident of the Northern Pacific Company, Villard township was organized on July 28, 1882, and comprises congressional township 133, range 32. It is the extreme northeastern township in the county. It had a population of three hundred and forty-one in 1910. At its east is the county line; at its south, Fawn Lake township; at its west, Staples township. Its southeastern portion is traversed by the Long Prairie river, and its railroad lines are both branches of Northern Pacific. The Crow Wing river cuts into the northeastern part of the congressional township from which this civil township is made up, hence the territory does not contain more than thirty-one and one-half sections. Its only hamlet is Philbrook, a station on the Northern Pacific, on the south line.

## BARTLETT TOWNSHIP.

Bartlett comprises congressional township 133, range 34. It was organized by the county board of commissioners on March 22, 1883. Its population in 1910 was six hundred and twenty-one. It is without railroad or village, but is an excellent agricultural section. It is west of Staples township, north of Germania and east of Stowes Prairie township. It has numerous small streams.

## BURLEENE TOWNSHIP.

Burleene township was organized some time just prior to 1889, and now comprises congressional township 130, range 35. It has no village or railway lines within its borders. It had a population in 1910 of four hundred and sixteen. It is bounded on the west by the county line, on the north by Wycham township, on the east by Iona township, and on the south by Leslie township.

## REYNOLDS TOWNSHIP.

Reynolds comprises congressional township 129, range 34, and was organized prior to 1890. It is south of Iona township, west of Long Prairie, north of Little Sauk township and east of Leslie. Its population in 1910 was seven hundred and thirty-three. Long Prairie river flows through the territory from section 6 to 13. In the southern part are found several small lakelets. There are no towns or railroads within its bounds.

## LITTLE ELK TOWNSHIP.

Little Elk township comprises congressional township 130, range 32, and was organized prior to 1890. It had a population in 1910 of three hundred and ten. It is bounded on the north by Turtle Creek township, on the east by the Morrison county line, on the south by Bruce township, and on the west by Hartford township. In the western portion are found a number of beautiful lakes. There are no villages or railroads within this township.

## BRUCE TOWNSHIP.

Bruce was made a separate township some time previous to 1901, and comprises all of congressional township 129, range 32. It has two fine, small lakes. Small streams course here and there throughout the township. It is bounded on the north by Little Elk, on the east by Morrison county, on the south by Burnhamville township and on the west by Long Prairie township. Its population in 1910 was five hundred and nineteen. It is without a railroad line and has a portion of the hamlet of Pillsbury on its south line.

## ROUND PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

Round Prairie was originally a part of Long Prairie township. It now comprises congressional township 128, range 33. It is south of Long Prairie township, west of Burnhamville, north of Birch Dale and east of Little Sauk township. In the central and north portions are found several of the fine lakes for which Todd county is so famous. The Great Northern railway runs through sections 6, 7, 18 and 19, with a station at Round Prairie village. It had a population in 1910 of six hundred and ninety-eight.

## TURTLE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Turtle Creek is one of the latest townships organized in the county, the date being in July, 1890. It comprises congressional township 131, range 32. It is south of Fawn Lake, west of the Morrison county line, north of Little Elk township and east of Ward township. In 1910 its population was two hundred and twenty-five. Its surface is cut up by numerous pretty lakes, including the larger one, Rice Lake. There are no villages or railway lines within the township limits.

## BURNVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Burnville township was organized on September 8, 1870, and constitutes congressional township 128, range 32; is bounded on the east by Morrison county, on the south by Grey Eagle township, on the west by Round Prairie and on the north by Bruce township. Its population in 1910 was seven hundred and thirty-one. At first it included township 129. It is cut up with many lakes; has the villages of Cogel, Burtrum and a part of Swanville, Morrison county. Its railroad is the Little Falls and Morris branch of the Northern Pacific.

## CHAPTER XI.

### CITIES AND VILLAGES.

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#### CITY OF STAPLES.

Staples is the largest place within Todd county. It is situated on the main line of the Northern Pacific railroad, which company has large financial interests at this point, including its division concerns. It is the terminal point for three divisions. The city is one hundred and forty-two miles from St. Paul and one hundred and forty-nine miles from Duluth, one hundred and nine miles from Fargo and thirty-five miles from Long Prairie. It is nicely situated in the famous Crow Wing river valley, noted for its productive agricultural qualities. Long Prairie, Leaf and Partridge rivers flow through this section of the country, making it an ideal spot in which to locate a city. From the date of its platting, Staples was destined to become a place of importance on the Northern Pacific system. It is almost exactly in the geographical center of the state of Minnesota and started its boom with the lumbering interest, being at the time surrounded by some of Minnesota's best pine forests. Its first mill was erected by the Staples lumbering interests, and so at first it was styled "Staple Mills." It was not incorporated as a city until 1906, since which date the improvements have steadily forged forward. They own a municipal electric light plant, have first-class sewerage, a most excellent water system and good fire protection. The principal business streets are paved with creosote blocks.

The United States census for 1910 placed Staples as having a population of two thousand five hundred and fifty-eight, but now it far exceeds these figures.

The city has the advantage of a fine modern opera house seating more than seven hundred persons, and the very highest grade of plays come hither annually. They have both local and long-distance telephone systems.

About five years ago the Northern Pacific Company erected a spacious three-story office and depot structure, made of solid pressed brick. They

also maintain a large round-house and repair machine shop, with the most extensive yards on the entire system. Stock from the west is here unloaded and fed and watered at the large stockyards, before shipping on to Eastern markets. More than five years ago the company's payroll here was one hundred thousand dollars per month, which means a brisk retail trade when pay-day rolls around.

Among the factories may be named the large silo-making factory. All business interests are backed and fostered by a live set of members in the Commercial Club of Staples.

Of the religious element, let it be stated that Staples is up-to-date in church work. Here are found Methodist, Congregational, Adventist, Catholic, Baptist and Episcopal denominations, with large organizations and fine church edifices. More than a thousand school children attend the public schools, which are of the best class.

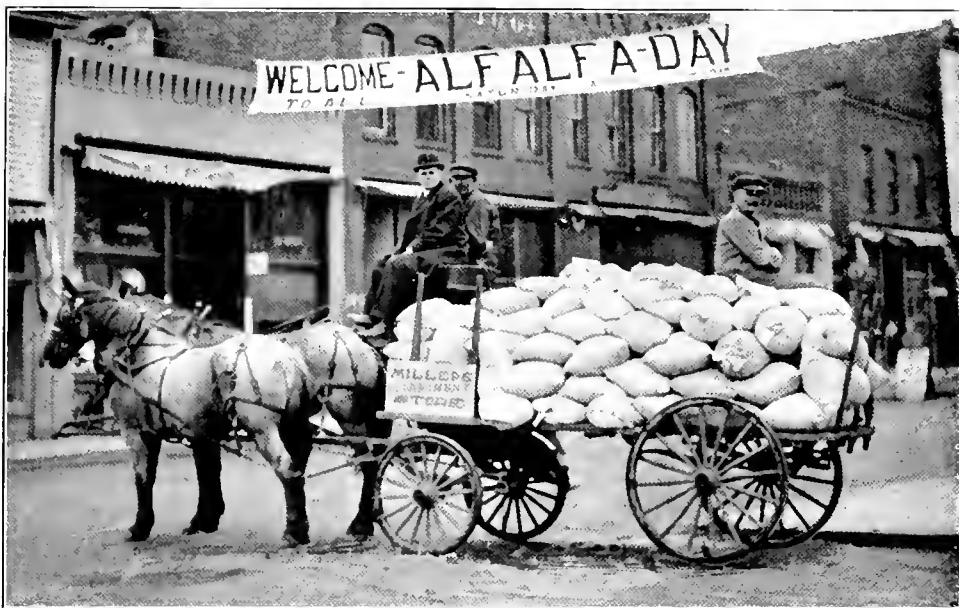
The business also has represented such industries as mills, a wood-pulp plant, a creamery and other valuable adjuncts to the commercial interests of the city.

#### EAGLE BEND.

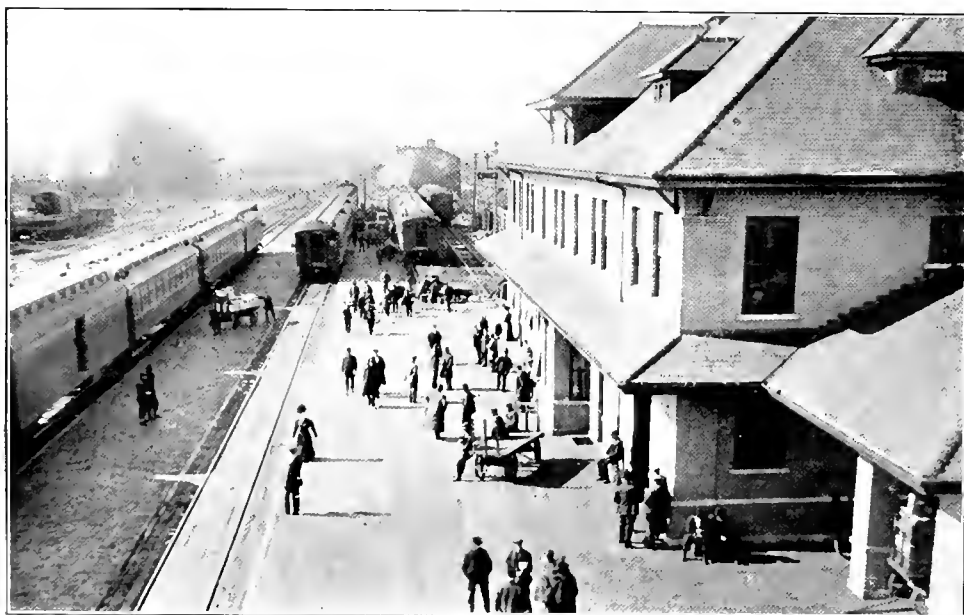
Eagle Bend is another progressive, substantial village of about six hundred population—at least it had over five hundred and fifty in 1910. It is located on the Park Rapids branch of the Great Northern railway, a little to the north of the center of Todd county. It is not noted for any special enterprise or boom, but keeps along in the even tenor of its ways. There are several good stores and the usual number of shops, a good newspaper, the *News*, two strong banks, a one-hundred-and-twenty-five-barrel-capacity flouring mill, a creamery, five churches. The following fraternal societies have been represented by lodge homes at this point: The Masons, Odd Fellows, Yeomen, Ancient Order of United Workmen.

#### LONG PRAIRIE.

Long Prairie is the county seat of Todd county—the only one it ever had—no spirited contest here. It is a beautiful town of homes and churches and good business interests well cared for by a public-spirited class of people. Its population in 1910 was about one thousand three hundred, but is much more today. It is on the Great Northern railway line, and is situated on the Long Prairie river in the central part of the township of Long Prairie, about one mile from its western border. It was platted in 1867, on section 20,



\$4,500 LOAD OF ALFALEA SEED, STAPLES, APRIL, 1914



RAILROAD STATION AND YARDS, STAPLES





township 129, range 33. It was incorporated in 1883, since which date it has forged well to the forefront among the other towns of the county. It is within a very fertile, well-cultivated portion of the finest farming section in this county. Its schools, churches and other advantages are mentioned in other chapters. Long Prairie has municipal water and lighting plants, the former established in 1897 and the latter in 1900. There are two beautiful public parks—Lee's Park and Locke's Park. The streets are well graded and cement sidewalks have been constructed along the principal streets. In 1910 a sewer system was installed at an expense of three thousand four hundred dollars, largely for the business part of the place. It is here that one of the largest creamery plants in the entire state is located. The daily sight of scores of farm teams, bringing in cream and milk to this concern, indicates the prosperity of this region.

Long Prairie ranks well as a small manufacturing town, having the milling company, the silo factory, the brewing industry and the Hansmann Manufacturing Company and brick yards. The celebrated corn-husking machine is made here by the Hansmann Manufacturing Company. It does the work of a whole family in corn-husking season, and is selling in all parts of the corn belt.

#### ROUND PRAIRIE.

Round Prairie is situated on the line of the Great Northern railway, five miles south of Long Prairie, in one of the very earliest settlements in Todd county. The first school house in the county was erected here and the first religious services in the county were held in this section. The early settlement chapter dwells on this at length, so it need not here be repeated. The retail trade is all well represented here for a village of its size. The population in 1910 was one hundred.

#### HEWITT.

Hewitt, an incorporated village of Todd county, is of the modern and progressive type. It has a good street lighting system, cement walks, and is otherwise well improved. Its population is something between three and four hundred. The Hewitt roller mill has a capacity of seventy-five barrels a day, and the stockyards frequently ship out fifty or sixty cars of live stock annually. It also has a paying, well managed creamery, feed mill, general stores and the usual number of shops. The three churches are mentioned in the church chapter. A ten-thousand-dollar school building was

erected in 1910-11. The thing that tells for Hewitt's prosperity is the fact of its being located in such a productive farm district. It is no uncommon thing to harvest as high as three tons of clover from the first cutting, per acre, after which a crop bearing seed is secured from the same field amounting to five bushels per acre. It is also in the very heart of the famous creamery belt of Minnesota.

#### WEST UNION.

In West Union township is also located another excellent trading mart—the village of West Union—on the main line of the Great Northern railway, twenty miles southwest of the county seat. This is one of Todd county's oldest places and has connected with its history many of the important and interesting events of the pioneer days. The first store was erected by Tony Poplinski about 1880. The original townsite was owned by Joel Myers. It was incorporated in 1900 and is within township 127, range 35. It is in one of the county's richest agricultural sections. While towns outside this county somewhat cut into its trade, West Union does her share in an honorable competitive manner, year by year. It has a population of something in excess of two hundred and fifty. In 1911 a new school house was erected costing about four thousand dollars. The creamery, general stores, shops, grain and coal warehouses constitute its present business factors. The churches are the Methodist and Roman Catholic denominations. There is a small but very beautiful lake within a few blocks of the business district of the village.

#### CLARISSA.

Clarissa, an incorporated village of Todd county, is situated in Eagle Valley township, a little north of the geographical center of the county, on the Great Northern railway. The original site was platted in 1877 by Lewis Bischoffsheim and wife, of London, England. The place was named in honor of the wife of Mr. Bischoffsheim. When the settlement was first attempted here there was a wonderful growth of poplar, and the thicket was hard to subdue and make suitable for village-site uses. The railroad did not make its advent here until 1883, and all supplies before that date had to be hauled from Sauk Center. One of the first to locate here was George W. Pearmine, and George G. Howe came in second. In 1881 Frank Nutting conducted the only store of the village. In 1883 a mill was erected by Frank

Nutting, Sr., on a land grant of three hundred and twenty acres. In 1885 a county seat talk was had for the removal from Long Prairie, but this scheme "flashed in the pan." In 1890 a creamery was established at a cost of five thousand dollars and a co-operative company formed to operate it. This, however, proved a failure, and in 1894 the property was sold for three thousand dollars to private parties. In 1894 a new plant was opened, and has proved a great financial success to all interested. The farmers nearby are receiving over one hundred thousand dollars annually for the cream and milk sold at this place. In 1897 the place was incorporated as a village. In 1906 internal improvements commenced to be made in dead earnest—sidewalks, street lights, a sewerage system, a volunteer fire company and other items were at once added for the good of the citizens.

The postoffice statement made as long ago as 1911 showed money order business amounting to over one thousand seven hundred and twenty-two dollars for the year ending October, 1910. The lodges include the Woodmen, Royal Neighbors and Yeoman. The church life is represented by the Catholic, Norwegian Lutheran, Swedish Lutheran and the Norwegian Synod. The population of this village in 1910 was about four hundred. It is one of Todd county's excellent places and is on the constant upgrade in its business affairs and general improvement.

#### BURTRUM.

Burtrum village owes its existence to the construction of the Morris and Little Falls branch of the Northern Pacific railway, and now has about three hundred population. Its situation is favorable and is within Burnhamville civil township in the heart of a rich farming district. In April, 1901, it was incorporated as a village, and now has its village hall, its fire department, gas street lamps, good sidewalks, a four-room graded school, a Congregational, Methodist and Lutheran society. All general merchandise business is carried on, also various shops and warehouses go toward making up the commercial interests of the village, and "a square deal" is the motto of the business men of the place. The nearby lakes lay in all their beauty and already a number of desirable summer homes have been there established. At Mound lake, two miles distant, there were three fine cottages in 1910. At Long lake, two miles away, fine fishing attracts many. Swan lake, three miles out, is the largest of the lakes.

## GREY EAGLE.

Eighteen miles southeast of Long Prairie, in Grey township, is the sprightly village of Grey Eagle, on the Northern Pacific road. Its population is now about six hundred. Civic improvements include an eight-room grade school, a town hall, cement walks, street lights, a German Lutheran, Congregational and a United Brethren church, and a weekly newspaper, the *Gazette*. It was written five years ago that Grey Eagle was the best village of its size in all Minnesota. Ever since the railroad was completed, about a third of a century ago, the place has always been on the up-grade list of places in north-central Minnesota. It has had its misfortunes in the way of fires and in 1907 it had one that swept through its streets and business was greatly demoralized for a time, but soon rose to the emergency and rebuilt; and better than before. A word must be said concerning its surrounding lakes. Big Birch and Swan lakes are near by and add much to the value and comforts of life and business at this point. These lakes have charming, wooded shores, a sandy beach and afford excellent fishing. Camping here is frequent and many come hundreds of miles to enjoy the summer seasons at Grey Eagle and its environments.

## BERTHA.

Bertha township and village received their name from Mrs. Bertha Ristan, the first white woman residing in the vicinity. The village was platted by C. A. Germond and M. Riggs. It became an incorporated place in 1897, when the following officers were elected: Fred Steinkrans, president; E. G. Craig. Herbert Livingston, Mark Maynard, trustees; Richard Willie, recorder. M. P. Westergreen, treasurer; A. N. Soule, Grant Tower, justices of the peace.

This place is one of the desirable small places of Todd county and one where brains and business tact have worked hand in hand until it has a name of unusual note in this section of the state. Her schools and churches are of the most elevating and up-to-date in any small place to be found. The agricultural surroundings are of the best and the soil never fails or disappoints the tillers, but with the return of season ever lavishes her bountiful harvest. All legitimate business houses are here represented and all seem prosperous. The village improvements consist in part, of the fine sidewalks, volunteer fire department and their equipment, graded streets, a lighting sys-





MRS. BERTIA L. RISTAN

The first white woman to settle within the present township of Bertha. She arrived here with her husband, John Ristan, in November, 1876. They located in section 9, on the place now owned by R. Paschke. Both husband and wife were closely identified with the town's early history. The township was named in honor of Mrs. Ristan, and her husband conducted the pioneer store and was also the first postmaster and town clerk.



FIRST HOME AND POSTOFFICE AT BERTHA

Settled by John and Bertha Ristan in 1876





tem and all that tends to make life worth living in a small place. Mills and creameries, with other money-getting propositions, have made the people in town and country as of one family, and all seem contented in that they own homes within as good a farming section as the state affords. The population of Bertha in 1910 was placed at three hundred, to which many have since been added.

#### BROWERVILLE.

Browerville was platted in 1882 by J. V. Brower, when the Sauk Center branch of the Great Northern railway was built. No place within Todd county is situated so close to the richest farm sections for which this county is famous. The first business houses were the general stores of Perry & Scott and D. C. Davis; also the drug business of Dr. M. L. Murphy. A. M. Jaques started the pioneer hardware store. The Perry & Scott store is still in operation. The village stood still, so to speak, for a number of years, but finally took on a more hopeful outlook and has now come to be known as a fine place with over eight hundred inhabitants. The improvements include several fine, modern business blocks and many tasty residences. Mills and grain warehouses are equal to the great farm interests of the immediate surrounding agricultural district.

The modern improvements obtain to a very large extent in this place. The creamery, the newspaper, the garages, banks, telephone exchange, rural free delivery of mail, the excellent public schools, the water works, graded streets and fine cement walks, all bespeak of a humming, busy place, where intellect and money abound in goodly proportion. The churches are the Catholic denomination, which has two separate organizations, the United Brethren and other religious interests. The Polish Catholic church edifice is second to none in the county for beauty and cost. This was dedicated in 1910. By carefully reading the chapters on banks and newspapers elsewhere in this volume much additional information concerning Browerville may be obtained.

#### LITTLE SAUK.

Little Sauk village, in the township of the same name, is one of the pioneer settlements in Todd county, and a third of a century and more ago, was a distributing point and base of supplies for all early settlers in the southern part of the county. Mail came here to be sent out over a wide scope of territory. It is just eight and one-half miles to the south of Long Prai-

rie, on Sauk river, and on the line of the Great Northern railway system. There are less than one hundred people residing in the place, approximately. Mills, stores and small shops are there prospering in the midst of the farm and lake resort region. Churches of the Swedish Lutheran faith and a good school are maintained. One store there dates back forty-four years ago, "The Pioneer" is its name. A new store building was erected in 1900. All lines of retail trade are here represented.

## CHAPTER XII.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### POPULATION OF TODD COUNTY.

The census returns of the government give these figures on Todd county and may be relied upon. The census returns for 1890, 1900 and 1910 are as follow :

	1890	1900	1910
Bartlett township -----	---	586	621
Bertha township -----	456	816	714
Bertha Village -----	---	277	296
Birchdale township -----	385	446	444
Browerville Village -----	86	466	633
Bruce township -----	---	448	519
Burleene township -----	117	426	416
Burnhamville township -----	729	1,015	731
Burtrum Village -----	---	---	217
Clarissa Village -----	---	223	364
Eagle Bend Village -----	306	547	306
Eagle Valley township -----	696	835	913
Fawn Lake township -----	128	254	291
Germania township -----	256	485	510
Gordon township -----	725	820	648
Grey Eagle township -----	408	443	516
Grey Eagle Village -----	---	313	378
Hartford township -----	1,051	1,025	816
Hewitt Village -----	---	311	322
Iona township -----	456	918	899
Kandota township -----	298	426	333
Leslie township -----	520	651	601
Little Elk township -----	---	---	310

	1890	1900	1910
Little Sauk township-----	594	783	647
Long Prairie township-----	---	796	1,045
Long Prairie Village-----	---	1,385	1,250
Moran township -----	273	526	498
Osakis Village (part of)-----	---	102	89
Reynolds township -----	433	892	733
Round Prairie township -----	503	742	698
Staples City -----	585	1,504	2,258
Staples township -----	257	483	619
Stowe Prairie township -----	---	608	611
Turtle Creek township-----	---	269	225
Villard township -----	225	384	341
Ward township -----	634	813	801
West Union township-----	537	592	424
West Union Village -----	---	---	161
Wykeham township -----	346	594	664
Totals -----	12,930	22,214	23,407

The various villages and cities within Todd county in 1910 had a population of six thousand two hundred and thirty-four.

#### PROSPECTIVE IRON ORE WEALTH.

W. H. Poore, of Staples, is authority for a large part of the facts stated within this article, the same having been published some four years ago in what was styled "The Book of Todd County."

The fact that Todd county was within the belt of Minnesota country where iron ore existed was first made known through a circumstance in and of itself rather small, but it told the story of a hidden treasure which will ere long make the county a wealthy mining district. When Mr. Poore was surveying in section 32 of Villard township, and in section 5 of Fawn Lake township, in the spring of 1901, it was observed that the compass needle deflected or "dipped" forty-five and more degrees from the true north standard of such an instrument. During that autumn a party made up of Mr. Poore, N. A. Kellum, O. W. Underwood, R. D. Kilts and possibly another, commenced to explore the same by test-pitting. This was, however, discontinued when it

was learned that the glacial drift overlaid the Huronian formation in Todd county by over one hundred and fifty feet.

There the matter rested until the spring of 1906, when Orrin Kipp, of St. Paul, and Cuyler Adams, of Deerwood, Minnesota, were induced by Mr. Poore to make an examination of the premises, resulting in the organization of the Kipp Mining Company. They went down with diamond drills at about twenty different points, resulting in finding merchantable ore. Other explorations have been made from time to time and at present all that is known to the general public about the iron mines of Todd county is that prospecting still goes forward.

#### LAKES AND SUMMER RESORTS.

The scenery of this county is ever a feast to the eye. The hundreds of beautiful spots situated within the bounds of Todd county afford a field of promise and enjoyment to all who chance to dwell within its borders. Being situate in the far-famed "park region" of Minnesota, Todd county naturally possesses charms and allurements to the lover of nature and sportsmen not found in any other locality. Thousands of acres of unbroken forest land and many large and smaller lakes and lakelets adorn the county. For the camper at all the lakes, supplies may be had close at hand. Thousands of persons from the great Twin Cities, Canada, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Nebraska, Kentucky, Tennessee and other parts of the Union make their annual tours to these beautiful lakes. One of the most popular of these resorts is Osakis lake, having over thirty miles of shore front; this is in the southwest corner of the county. Of a truth it may be stated that for the smaller game, fish, etc., no better resort can be found in the entire Northwest. Ducks are found in endless numbers at all of these lakes. A few deer and gray wolves are yet to be seen. Coons, mink, muskrats, jack rabbits, hares, and gray and black squirrels are also plentiful.

Among these many lakes that make glad the heart of the beholder, may be listed the following: Birch lake, All Happy lake, West Union lake, Dower lake, Long lake, Osakis lake, Sauk lake and Charlotte lake.

As the years come and go, man has greatly beautified and improved the environments of these northern beauty spots. Future generations will here find resorts not now dreamed of, for as the country settles up and is more universally known abroad, tens of thousands of sightseers and summer tourists will visit this county.

## VILLAGE PLATS.

The county plat books show the following village plattings to have been made at one time or another within Todd county:

Bertha—By G. E. Keys, August 8, 1891; in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 2, township 132, range 35.

Birch Lake—By Elihu Mullew, September, 1882; in the southwest quarter of section 23, township 127, range 33.

Burgstrom—By Washington McNeice, April, 1884; in the southeast quarter of section 26, township 128, range 34.

Burnhamville—By Nathan E. Barber, February 17, 1883; in the southwest quarter of section 35, township 129, range 32.

Clarissa—By George G. Howe, July 29, 1879; in the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 27, township 131, range 34.

Dower Lake—By Lewis D. French and twelve other persons, November 26, 1884; in section 4, township 133, range 33. This was on Dower Lake.

Grey Eagle—By Eli Woodman and Jacob Bovee, September, 1882; in the northeast quarter of section 7, township 127, range 32.

Sliters Beach—By R. H. Sliter and wife, October, 1912; in the southwest quarter of section 17, township 127, range 32.

Hansen (now Burtrum)—By W. T. Hansen, February 15, 1889; in section 27, township 128, range 32.

Hewitt—By William R. Baumbech, April 3, 1891; in section 15, township 133, range 35.

Phillbrook—By Nancy Hartshorn, Benjamin Hartshorn, Mary V. Coppenoll and P. Coppenoll, November 10, 1889; in sections 34 and 33, township 133, range 32.

West Union—By Joel Meyers, June 17, 1881; in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 21, township 127, range 35.

Round Prairie—By Elnora McKellip, October 5, 1903; in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 18, township 128, range 33.

Ward Springs—By J. W. and Martha J. Ward; in Birch Dale township, congressional township 127, range 33.

Leevilla—On Little Swan Lake, April, 1915; in section 3, township 128, range 32.

Long Prairie—By John R. Tweed (for estate), May, 1867; in the northeast quarter of section 20, township 129, range 33.

Browerville—By Walter C. Brower, December 11, 1882; in the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 8, township 130, range 33.

Staples Mill (now Staples)—By William Lawson, June 4, 1889; in the south half of the southwest quarter of section 1, township 133, range 33.

Leslie—May 10, 1898; in section 26, township 129, range 35.















